

History - Baghdad

Key Dates

AD 632

Muhammad (PBUH) dies and Muslims struggle to agree who should be the next **caliph**. The first four **caliphs** appointed after this time come to represent an age of 'pure **Islam**'. When the last caliph, Ali, was killed in AD 661, the Umayyad **dynasty** of **caliphs** took over for nearly 100 years. After that, began the reign of the Abbasid **caliphs**.

AD 752

**Caliph** Al-Mansur build Baghdad as the new capital of the Islamic empire on the river Tigris. It was close to established trade routes, such as the **Silk Road**, and became known as the cultural and learning capital of the world.

AD 830

The House of Wisdom is built in Baghdad.

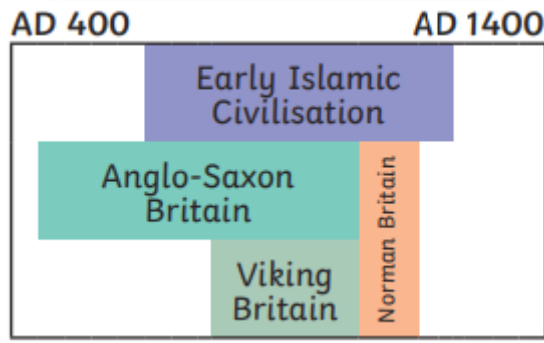
AD 1258

The Siege of Baghdad. Mongols from Asia attacked Islamic lands, destroying the House of Wisdom and burning Baghdad. They threw millions of books into the river. The city never recovered its former glory, but the ideas lived on.

*This half term, Year 4 is going to be studying **Baghdad - Early Islamic Civilisation** in our History lessons.*

*Read the information below to find out more about our History learning.*

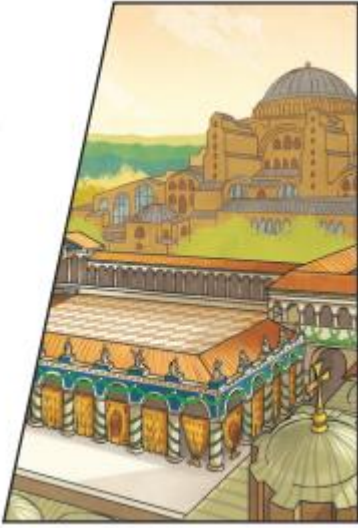
*Don't forget to complete your project too!*



Key Vocabulary

- **Islam:**  
A religion founded by Muhammad (PBUH - peace be upon him), who was born in Mecca in AD 570. People who practise Islam are called Muslims.
- **caliph:**  
A caliph is the leader of a caliphate - a political-religious form of government of a Muslim community. A caliph had to be Muslim, male, sane, fair, just and law-abiding.
- **dynasty:**  
A succession of rulers of a country or civilisation. Generally, the next ruler in the dynasty inherits the title.
- **scholar:**  
A person dedicated to learning, often at a high level and in a particular area of study.
- **Silk Road:**  
A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.

## The House of Wisdom



Bayt al-Hikma, the 'House of Wisdom', was founded by **Caliph** Harun al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited **scholars** of different faiths to his court, treating them with great respect. The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility which collected and translated writing from many cultures, including Persian, Indian, Ancient Greek and Roman texts. By AD 900, the House of Wisdom stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant minds to study there.

## Islamic Art

Islamic art includes architecture, calligraphy, painted glass, illustrated patterns, pottery and textile arts.



- **Calligraphy:**  
Decorative handwritten lettering.
- **Vegetal:**  
Consisting of foliage and flowers.
- **Geometric:**  
Repeating, interlaced or overlapped shapes.

## Project for Home Learning

Can you find out more about Baghdad and present your learning in a creative way?

### You could...

- create a PowerPoint presentation showing your research.
- create a 3D model of the Silk Road or House of Wisdom.
- sketch/paint a picture of the Silk Road or House of Wisdom.
- Make a timeline of events.
- Create some Islamic artwork.