



THE ISLAMIC GOLDEN AGE

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



WHAT WILL I KNOW BY THE END OF THIS TOPIC

- Some key facts about Baghdad.
- Identify some similarities and differences between life in Baghdad and London in AD 900.
- Why Baghdad was such an important city in the Islamic Empire.
- What the House of Wisdom was, and what happened there.
- A simple understanding of the Siege of Baghdad.
- Some of the significant discoveries and studies which were led by early Islamic scholars.
- How the works of early Islamic doctors has influenced modern medicine.
- Names of some of the important Muslim scholars.
- Who Muhammad is, say how the first caliphate came to be formed and explain the roles and responsibilities of a Caliph.
- How Muhammad founded Islam.
- What a caliphate is and explain how the first caliphate was formed.
- Why the early Islamic civilisation became a great power.

The House of Wisdom

Scholars from the House of Wisdom would travel widely to collect texts from all over the world. They would bring them back to translate them into Arabic. By the second half of the 9th century, the House of Wisdom stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant Arab and Persian minds to study there.

A lot of original research happened. For example, the famous mathematician Al-Khwarizmi worked there and is famous for his contributions to the development of algebra.

Important people in Islamic History:



The early Islamic doctor **Al-Zahrawi** is known as 'the father of surgery'.



Ibn Al-Haytham made the world's first camera or pinhole camera.



Al-Khwarizmi worked at the House of Wisdom. He is famous for his contributions to the development of **algebra**.



The early Islamic doctor **Muhammad Ibn Zakariya Razi** made a significant contribution to the history of medicine.



Early Baghdad Timeline

750AD – Abbasid dynasty becomes the rulers of the Muslim Empire

762 AD – Caliph Al Mansur founds the city of Baghdad. Construction begins.

706-809 AD – House of Wisdom and Baghdad hospital are founded.

950 AD – Al-Farabi, philosopher and resident of Baghdad for most of his life, dies.

1021 AD – Ibn al-Haytham publishes his book of optics. Many scholars live in Baghdad.

1037 AD – Death of Avicenna, who made important discoveries about disease.

1055 AD – Baghdad captured by Seljuk Turks.

1096 AD – Crusades begin.

1258 AD – Mongols sack Baghdad.

Key Vocabulary

Islam	A religion founded by Muhammad, 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.
calligraphy	Decorative handwritten lettering.
vegetal	Consisting of foliage and flowers.
geometric	Repeating, interlaced or overlapped shapes.
Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.

