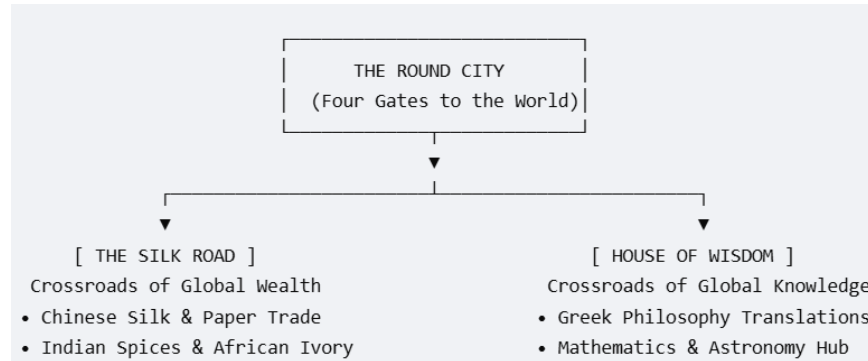


# Year 5 Knowledge Organiser: The Early Islamic Civilisation

The **Golden Age of Islam** was a period of incredible scientific, economic, and cultural flourishing lasting from the **8th to the 13th century**. While Britain was divided into rival kingdoms during the Anglo-Saxon and Viking eras, the Islamic Empire grew into the world's most advanced civilisation.



## Islamic Art

Element	Description	Key Features
Calligraphy	Decorative, stylized handwriting	Highest art form; usually reproduces verses from the Qur'an.
Geometric Patterns	Interlaced and repeating mathematical shapes	Relies on grids; features symmetry, tessellations, and stars.
Vegetal / Arabesque	Rhythmic, flowing patterns based on nature	Features continuous spirals of interlaced leaves, flowers, and stems.



## Essential Vocabulary

**Caliph:** The supreme political and religious leader of an Islamic state or empire.

**Civilisation:** An advanced human society with developed government, culture, science, and industry.

**Golden Age:** A period of peace, prosperity, happiness, and great achievements in art and science.

**House of Wisdom:** The great library and intellectual centre of Baghdad during the Islamic Golden Age.

**Islamic Empire:** A vast territory ruled by Muslim leaders that stretched across parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe.

**Monopoly:** Complete control over the supply of a specific trade good or service.

**Polymath:** A person of wide knowledge or learning who excels in many different subjects (e.g., science, art, and philosophy).

**Primary Source:** An object, document, or first-hand account created during the time period being studied.

**Silk Road:** An ancient network of trade routes connecting East Asia to the Mediterranean and Europe.

## Key Historical Timeline:

- 📅 **AD 570:** Birth of the Prophet Muhammad in Mecca.
- 📅 **AD 610:** The founding of Islam. The empire quickly expands across the Middle East and North Africa.
- 📅 **AD 762:** Caliph Al-Mansur orders the construction of the new capital city, **Baghdad**.
- 📅 **AD 786–809:** Reign of Caliph Harun al-Rashid. He establishes the grand library known as the **House of Wisdom**.
- 📅 **c. AD 900: The Peak of the Golden Age.** Baghdad stands as the global hub of trade, wealth, and education.
- 📅 **AD 793–1066: Meanwhile in Britain...** The Anglo-Saxons rule England while defending their lands against violent **Viking raids**.
- 📅 **AD 1258:** The tragic end of the Golden Age. The Mongol army besieges and destroys Baghdad, including its libraries.