

# Early Islamic Civilisation

## Non-European society that provides a contrast to British history

**Chronological knowledge**—Know that the chronology of significant events in periods of history subsequently shaped different societies. Compare and contrast the characteristics of each period, to understand the impact of one period of time on another.

**Range and Depth of Historical Knowledge**—Know that past great events had an impact on people’s lives and shaped society, and that evidence is used to support or refute the explanation.

**Historical interpretation**— Know that there are reasons why there are different accounts of history. Know that evidence is evaluated to determine which is the most reliable source.

**Historical Enquiry**—Know which source of evidence is most appropriate and evaluate its usefulness and accuracy in order to form opinions about historical events.

### Previous learning

Ancient Greece  
Romans  
Islam

### Making comparisons

Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

### Key information

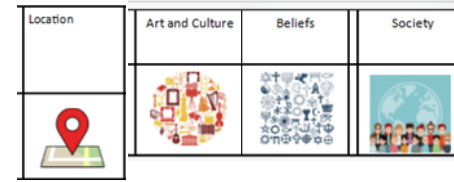
City of Baghdad became the central hub of the Islamic empire. It flourished economically, socially as a cosmopolitan city that attracted people of all cultures and backgrounds to trade, study and work.

The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility, it collected and translated scientific writings from many languages—Persian, Indian, Ancient Greek, and Roman texts (playing a major role in preserving the writings of Ancient Greece and Rome, and making them accessible to Europe).

Al-Zahrawi wrote a medical book Al Tasrif. It was used by doctors for another 500 years.

The Siege—where Mongols from Asia attacked and burned Baghdad, destroying the House of Wisdom, throwing millions of books into the river. The city never recovered its former glory, but the ideas lived on.

### Key categories and concepts



### Wonder

Enjoyment  
Love of Language

### Belonging

Empathy

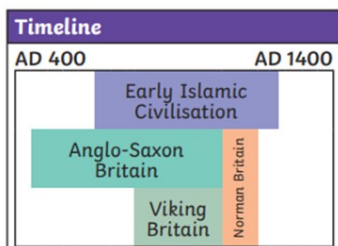
### Courage

Kindness

### Key Vocabulary

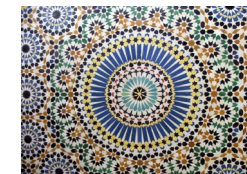
<b>civilisation</b>	In this context, the word ‘civilisation’ is used to describe a human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
<b>citizen</b>	A person who is a member of a particular country.
<b>culture</b>	The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.
<b>legacies</b>	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
<b>wisdom</b>	The quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement; the quality of being wise
<b>architecture</b>	The art or practice of designing and constructing buildings

### Contrasts to British History



Baghdad and the Islamic Empire	London and Europe
Baghdad population: over a million	London population: approximately 20,000
Millions of books, many thousands of readers.	Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.
Clean water and good drainage in cities.	Very little drainage in cities, water supplies were unsafe.
Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of ‘zero’.	Basic mathematics, with Roman numerals and no concept of ‘zero’
General peace across a huge Islamic empire.	Many wars between Christian kingdoms.

### What did the Early Islamic Civilisation leave behind



Art and Architecture