



What should I already know?

From lower schools I will have an understanding of Roman, Viking and Saxon rule in the UK and the impact these groups had on the peoples and development of the country. In the last topic I learnt about the ancient world, focussing on Egypt and Greece, and the achievements these civilizations made for human development.

Early Islam - the big questions

How did Baghdad compare to London in 900 AD?

By comparing these two cities we can appreciate the cultural significance of early Islam.

Why was the house of Wisdom so important?

For us to realise why Early Islam was so powerful, we need to appreciate the importance of knowledge.

Was Baghdad an early superpower?

This assessment will draw together what we have learnt to form a judgement on the power in early Baghdad.

Why was medicine and healing so important to Baghdad?

Having understood the importance of knowledge, we will now appreciate the value of health for Early Islam.

Why was the Abbasid Caliphate so successful?

Early Islam would not have spread without leaders. This is our chance to investigate their story.

What has early Islam given modern day?

This piece of work will not only explain the strength of Early Islam but also their long lasting legacy.

Golden Age of Islam map



Importance of Baghdad

- Baghdad at the time was the largest city in the world, with a population of about 1 million.
- It was a perfectly round city, with all the important buildings in the centre.
- Situated between two rivers, it was also at the centre of the world's great trade routes and the caliph was therefore extremely wealthy.
- Knowledge and learning was key to the success of the Golden Age of Islam.

Who was Ibn Battuta?



Born: 24 February 1304, Tangier, Morocco
 Died: Marrakesh, Morocco
 Nationality: Moroccan
 Parents: Fatimah
 Place of burial: Tomb of Ibn Battuta, Tangier, Morocco

Who was Al-Zhawari?



Born: 936 AD, Medina Azahara - Conjunto Arqueológico Madinat al-Zahra, Spain
 Died: 1013, Córdoba, Spain
 Nationality: Spanish
 Era: Islamic Golden Age



Facts and Figures

		Timeline	
There were 400,000 books in the House of Wisdom. One library in Cordoba contained 600,000 books!	At its largest the Islamic Empire controlled 10% of the land on Earth.	570 AD	Muhammed is born in Mecca, Arabia.
		610 AD	Muhammed receives his first revelation from God.
Islamic Astrolabes were used for navigation, astronomy and finding Mecca.	The Caliphate increased the Islamic army from 13,000 to 100,000 men.	632 AD	Muhammed dies and the first caliph, Abu Bakr takes control.
		750 AD	The Islamic Empire is at its height.
Islamic mathematicians introduced 0,1,2,3,4 symbols to Europe.	Muslims washed each day before prayer and used toothpaste and deodorants.	756 AD	Al-Andalus splits from the rest of the Islamic Empire.
		1258 AD	The city of Baghdad is destroyed by the Mongols.

Vocabulary

Islam	The religion of the Muslims.
Muslim	A follower of the religion of Islam.
AD	A.D. is an abbreviation for the Latin phrase anno Domini, which means "in the year of our Lord."
Baghdad	A city in and the capital of Iraq, in the central part, on the Tigris
Citizen	An inhabitant of a particular town or city.
Scholar	A person who is highly educated or has an aptitude for study.
House of Wisdom	Also known as the Grand Library of Baghdad.
Translation	The process of translating words or text from one language into another.
Persian	A native or inhabitant of ancient or modern Persia (or Iran), or a person of Persian descent.
Mongolian	A native or inhabitant of Mongolia.
Hajj	The greater Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.
Pilgrimage	A pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place.
Medicine	A drug or other preparation for the treatment or prevention of disease.
Chemist	A person engaged in chemical research or experiments.
Pharmaceutical	Relating to medicinal drugs, or their preparation, use, or sale.
Caliphate	The rule or reign of a caliph or chief Muslim ruler.

Additional reading and media

1001 Inventions and Awesome Facts From Muslim Civilization, *National Geographic Kids magazine*

Amazing Muslims Who Changed the World, *Burhana Islam*

The Islam Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained, *DK books*

DK Eyewitness Books: Islam

Video: **What The Ancients Did For Us** with Dr. Adam John Hart-Davis

Video: **Science and Islam** with Prof Jim Al-Khalili

Video: **The Rise and Fall of Islamic Spain**

Video: **The Man Who Walked Across the World** with Tim Mackintosh-Smith