

Early Islamic Civilisation

206 BC – AD 220

The Silk Road

The Silk Road was a trade route linking the east to west along which traders could travel to sell their wares. It is called the Silk Road because it was first used to carry Chinese silk during the time of the Chinese Han dynasty.



AD 450

AD 570

AD 622

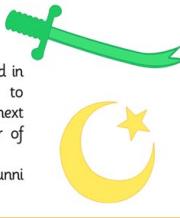
Medina

Muhammad and his followers were forced out of Mecca. They began a new community in a place that they renamed Medina.

AD 632

Sunni and Shia

After the death of Muhammad in AD 632, Muslims struggled to agree who should be the next caliph (which means successor of Muhammad). They later split into the Sunni Muslims and the Shia Muslims.



AD 722

Perfume

Jabir ibn Hayyan who was born in AD 722 and Al-Kindi (born in AD 801) were two of the most significant Early Islamic chemists noted for their contribution in the development of perfume.



AD 725

Baghdad is Built

Baghdad is built by Caliph al-Mansur as the new capital of the Islamic Empire.

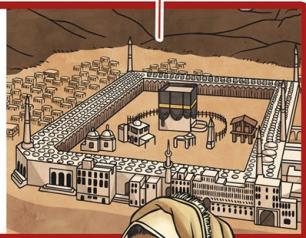


AD 800

AD 570

Islam Religion

Islam is a religion which was created by a man called Muhammad who was born in Mecca in AD 570. When he was forty years old, Muhammad began hearing and sharing what he believed were messages from Allah, an Arabic word for 'the god'.



AD 624

The Battle of Badr

Muhammad won the Battle of Badr, which was seen by the Muslims as proof that Allah was with them. After persuading many tribal leaders to convert to Islam, Muhammad marched a large army into Mecca in AD 630 and took control.

AD 1325

Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta leaves Tangier on his 29 year journey.



AD 1258

Early Islamic Civilisation Invasion

The Mongols from Asia attacked Islamic lands in AD 1258. During the attack they destroyed the House of Wisdom, burned Baghdad and killed thousands of people. They threw millions of books into the river which turned the water black with ink!

The city never recovered its former glory, but the ideas lived on.



AD 1000

AD 637

Islam Spreads

Islam spreads to Persia, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

AD 965

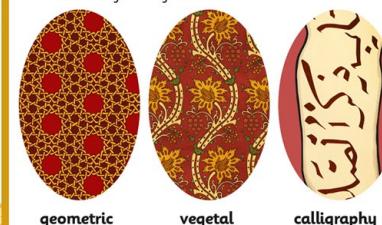
Ibn Al-Haytham

Ibn Al-Haytham was born in AD 965. He was influential in the study and development of optics and invented the first camera. Al-Haytham also proved that light travels in straight lines and discovered that we can see because light reflects off objects into our eyes.

AD 661

Islamic Art

It was during the Umayyad dynasty that an artistic style which could be clearly defined as Islamic began to develop. Here are some forms of Islamic art:



geometric

vegetal

calligraphy

AD 900

AD 854

Al Zahrawi

Al Zahrawi was born in AD 936. He refined the science of surgery and invented many surgical instruments. He developed the technique of cauterisation, invented forceps (which are still used today in assisting childbirth), developed the use of catgut in stitches and discovered that some diseases can be hereditary. He also wrote the book Al-Tasrif which was used by European doctors as a reference guide for approximately 500 years after it was finished in AD 1000.

AD 936

Muhammad ibn Zakariya Razi

Muhammad ibn Zakariya Razi was born in AD 854. He made a significant contribution to the history of medicine. He worked out the difference between smallpox and measles, was among the first doctors to study body fluids to distinguish between different diseases, studied the treatment of eye conditions and is regarded 'the father of paediatrics' due to his acknowledgement that children need to be treated differently to adults.



AD 830

The House of Wisdom

The House of Wisdom was built in AD 830 in Baghdad. It was founded by Caliph Harun Al-Rashid. It was a library and research facility which collect and translated scientific writing from many languages.

By AD 860, the House of Wisdom was holding the largest collection of books in the world.

