

Early Islamic Civilisation

From the seventh to the thirteenth centuries CE, the Islamic Empire controlled vast stretches of Asia, Africa and Europe. Its extraordinary leaders, soldiers, scholars and scientists made the empire one of the most advanced civilisations the world had ever seen. The story of Islamic civilisation started with the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

The map below shows the major routes that traders took along the ancient Silk Road.



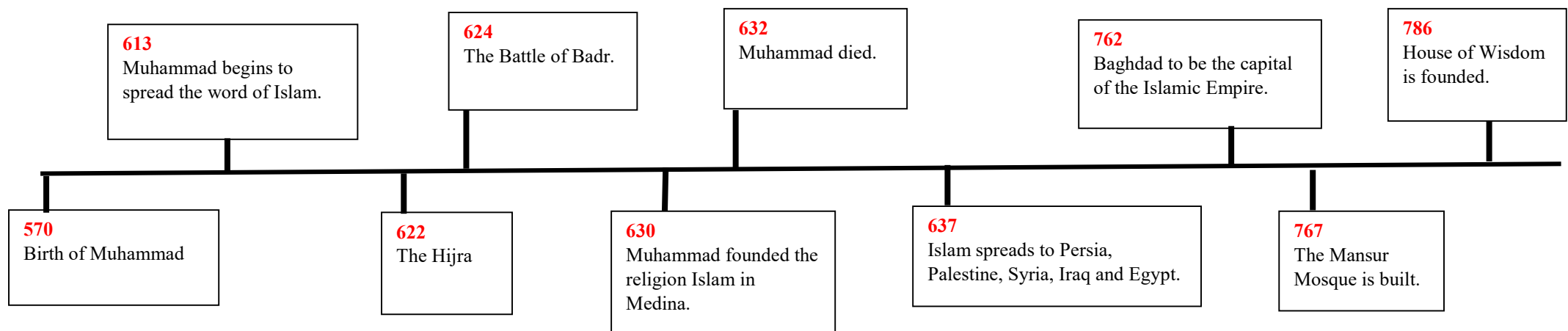
What you should already know:

- Muhammad is the prophet of the Islamic religion.
- Prophet Muhammad was born in the city of Mecca
- The Quran is the Islamic holy book.
- Mecca is the holy city of Islam.
- Muslims consider Mecca to be a sacred place and endeavour to take a pilgrimage to pay homage.

Silk Road

The **Silk Road** was a vast trade network connecting Southern Europe, East Asia and East Africa via land and sea routes. It earned its name from Chinese silk, a highly valued commodity that merchants transported along these trade networks.

Advances in technology and increased political stability caused an increase in trade, and the opening of more trade routes allowed travellers to exchange many goods: animals, spices, wool, gold and ideas.



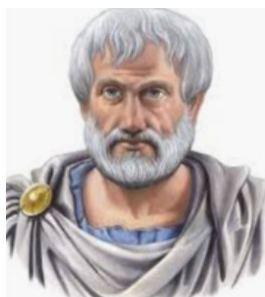
House of Wisdom

The House of Wisdom was built primarily as a library. The **House** became the home of ancient and modern **wisdom** during the Islamic Golden Age, preserving important works of scholarship from across Europe and the Middle East.

The Round city of Baghdad

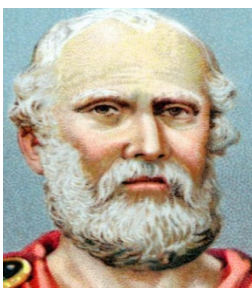
The Round City of Baghdad is the original core of Baghdad, built by the Abbasid Caliph al-Mansur in 762–766 CE. Its official name in Abbasid times was The City of Peace. The famous library known as the House of Wisdom was located within its grounds.

Aristotle



Greek
Philosopher
(385 BC – 323 BC)

Plato



Greek
Philosopher
(428 BC – 348 BC)

Caliph Harun al-Rashid



Founder of the
House of Wisdom
(763 AD – 809 AD)

Websites you might find useful...

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/muhammad_1.shtml
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/texts/quran_1.shtml
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/holydays/alhijra.shtml>
- <https://www.bbc.com/education/clips/zv6sb9q>

Key Vocabulary

caliphate – An area ruled by a caliph, the chief Muslim religious and political leader.

culture – The ideas and social behaviour of particular people or society.

empire – An extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.

Middle East – A region that generally includes Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Israel, the West Bank, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, the Gaza Strip, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

observatory – A building equipped for the study of the stars and planets.

Pagan – People who worship many gods.

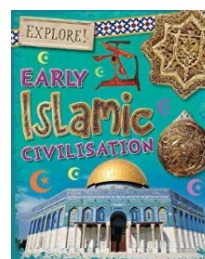
Quran – The Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic.

religion – The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

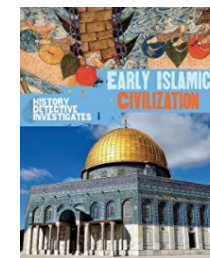
scholar – A scholar is a highly educated person.

trade - The action of buying and selling goods and services.

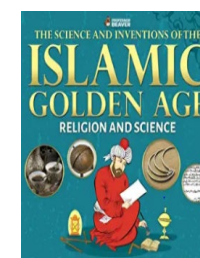
Books you might find useful...



Early Islamic Civilisation
Age



Early Islamic Civilization



Islamic Golden

