

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. This advanced society built the world's first hospitals, universities and observatories. Meanwhile, Europe, who were in the Dark Ages, were under Viking influence. The story of Islamic civilisation started with the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

**613**

Muhammad begins to spread the word of Islam.

**624**

The Battle of Badr.

**632**

Muhammad died.

**762**

Baghdad to be the capital of the Islamic Empire.

**786**

House of Wisdom is founded.

**570**

Birth of Muhammad

**622**

The Hijra

**630**

Muhammad founded the religion Islam in Medina.

**637**

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

**767**

The Mansur Mosque is built.



**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. The Silk Road was over 9,000 kilometres long.

To the left is a map showing the major route that traders took along the ancient Silk Road.

**The Round city of Baghdad**

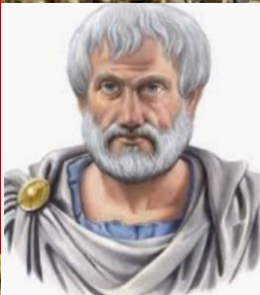
Baghdad was a huge circular city where great advances in mathematics and science were made. The city included beautiful palaces, mosques, gardens, libraries and parks.



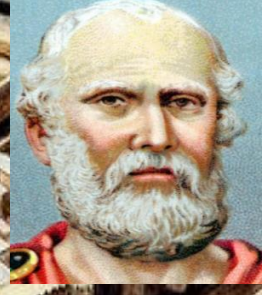
**The Round city of Baghdad**

**House of Wisdom**

The House of Wisdom was built primarily as a library. The writings of the Greeks, Romans and Arabs were collected here. Scholars and philosophers, such as Aristotle and Plato, had their ideas translated here.

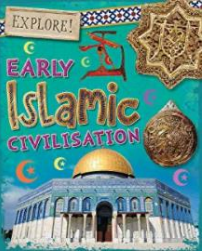


**Aristotle**  
**Greek philosopher**  
385 BC – 323 BC

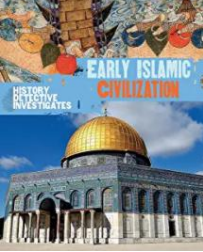


**Plato**  
**Greek philosopher**  
428 BC – 348 BC

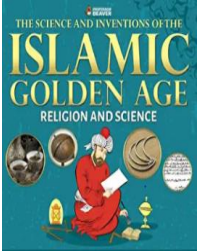
**Books you might find useful...**



Early Islamic Civilisation  
Izzi Howell



Early Islamic Civilization  
Claudia Martin



Islamic Golden Age  
Professor Beaver

**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/history/muhammad_1.shtml)
- [https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/texts/quran\\_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>

