

What should I already know?

- Children will know that the maintenance of laws and stability in these ancient civilisations was provided by governments, usually led by powerful rulers, like monarchs (kings, queens, emperors or empresses)
- Children will know what Britain was like during the Anglo-Saxon era to make a comparison with Baghdad.



What will I find out by the end of the unit?

Muhammed

Muhammad, like many of the most influential thinkers in history, believed and stated that all people were equal before God, a radical message that rulers of the time considered to be dangerous; Muhammad won followers with his message of submission to one God, expectation of imminent last judgement and the importance of caring for those in need.

Baghdad

Baghdad was established by Al-Mansur, the second caliph of the Abbassid Empire, in 762-764.

City was designed to be circular in shape, and was known to many as 'The Round City'.

Al-Mansur strategically chose Baghdad as the administrative capital of the Abbassid Empire due to its proximity to water and its links to trade routes. Know that Baghdad became a key global centre of trade along the 'Silk Routes' (often known as the 'Silk Road') a network of land and sea routes that connected the civilisations of the East and West and the Silk Routes allowed trade of many luxury goods, and the routes get their name from the silk that was bought from China and travelled westwards

Achievements and legacy

Know that advances in science, astronomy, poetry, mathematics, history, law and philosophy were made in the areas of early Islamic civilisation; this era of discovery is known by some as 'the Islamic Golden Age' or 'the Golden Age of Islam'.

The end of 'The Golden Era'

Know that the city of Baghdad was in decline when it was sacked by the Mongols in 1258; this means that the city was destroyed and much of its population massacred

Know that the Mongols were a group of nomadic tribes who had been unified by a ruler called Genghis Khan; they rode on horseback and had a massive empire, which they won through being brilliant horse riders and through their ruthlessness in combat

Vocabulary

The Caliph	Leader of a caliphate. They must be Muslim, male, sane, fair, just and law-abiding.
The Caliphate	A political-religious form of government of a Muslim community.
Mosque	A Muslim place of worship
Mongols	A person who was born in or is a citizen of Mongolia.
Islam	A religion founded by the prophet Muhammad. People who practise Islam are called Muslims.
Dinar	The main unit of money in Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Serbia and Tunisia.
Prophet	Someone who publicly shares a message that he or she believes has come from a god.
Qu'ran	The sacred book of Islam. Muslims believe that Allah gave the words of this book to the prophet Muhammed.
Dynasty	A succession of rulers of a country or civilisation.
Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.
Scholar	A person dedicated to learning, often at a high level and in a particular area of study

c. 400 - 1000 AD Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms in Britain

c. 500 AD	632 AD	762 AD	768 AD	800 AD	810 AD	830 AD	c. 900 AD	c. 950 AD	1258 AD
Rise and Spread of Islam begins	Muhammad dies and there is a new caliph needed to be chosen.	The decision to build a great city in Baghdad is made	The 'round city' is finished	The city becomes the largest city in the world	Baghdad becomes a hub for learning;	The House of Wisdom was built in Baghdad	Paper spreads into the region from China	The decline of the Abbassid caliphate begins and continues until the 13 th century	Baghdad was destroyed by Mongols