



Early Islamic Civilisation

Baghdad and the Islamic Empire	London and Europe
Baghdad population: over a million	London population: approximately 20,000
Millions of books, many thousands of readers.	Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.
Clean water and good drainage in cities.	Very little drainage in cities, water supplies were unsafe.
Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of 'zero'.	Basic mathematics, with Roman numerals and no concept of 'zero'
General peace across a huge Islamic empire.	Many wars between Christian kingdoms.

Key Vocabulary

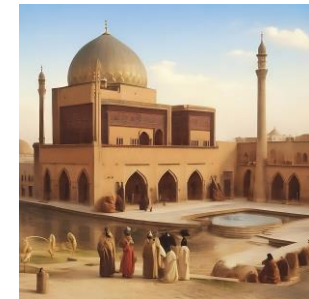
Civilisation	A Civilization is a group of people with their own languages and way of life.
Mosque	An Islamic place of worship for people of the Muslim faith.
Caliph	An important Muslim political and religious leader.
Muhammad	The founder of the religion of Islam.
Scholar	A person who has done advanced study in a special field.
Silk road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.
House of Wisdom	Built primarily as a library, the House became the home of ancient and modern wisdom during the Islamic Golden Age

Depiction of Baghdad 900 AD



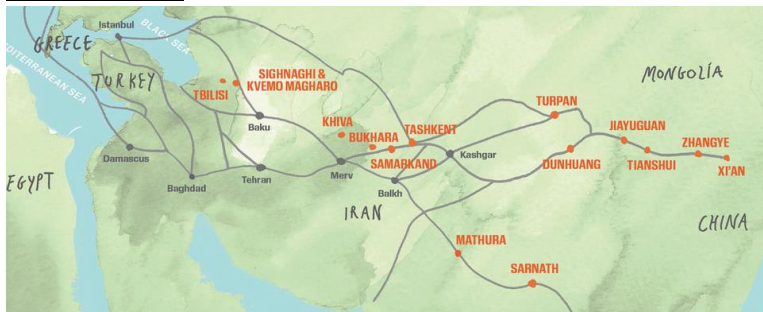
Baghdad was a major center of learning and culture. Located along the Tigris River, sitting close to trade routes that connected the East and West. Famous for its art, including calligraphy and geometric patterns. A cosmopolitan city with people from many cultures: Arabs, Persians, Turks, Jews, and Christians. Famous for poetry, music, and storytelling.

Depiction of the House of Wisdom



The House of Wisdom was a major center of learning in Baghdad in fields like science, mathematics, medicine, and philosophy. Founded in the early 9th century by Caliph Al-Ma'mun. As well as storing thousands of books and manuscripts, there was also observatories, translation rooms and bedrooms.

The Silk Road



The Silk Road was a network of trade routes connecting the East and West, stretching from China to the Mediterranean. Various goods were traded along the Silk Road, including silk, spices, precious metals, textiles and knowledge. Islamic civilization was strategically positioned between the East and West, controlling many of the Silk Road routes.