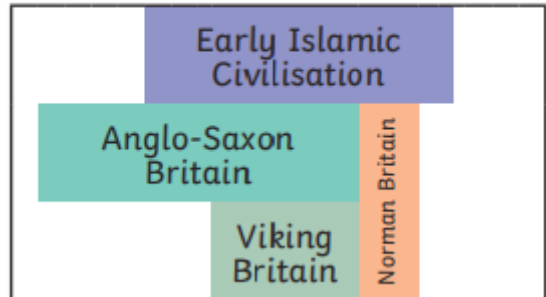


Drawing of 9th Century Baghdad



Timeline

AD 400 AD 1400



Year 6 Spring Snapshot: Arabian Nights

Key Dates

CE (Common Era) 632	Muhammed (PBUH) dies and Muslims struggle to agree who should be next caliph .
CE 661	The Umayyad dynasty of caliphs took over for nearly a century. After that began the reign of the Abbasid caliphs.
CE 752	Caliph Al-Mansur builds Baghdad as the new capital of the Islamic Empire on the river Tigris. It was close to established trade routes such as the Silk Road , and became known as the cultural and learning capital of the world.
CE 830	The House of Wisdom is built in Baghdad.
CE 1000	Al-Zahrawi finishes his medical book Al Tasrif. It will be used by doctors for another 500 years.
CE 1258	The Siege of Baghdad. Mongols from Asia attacked Islamic lands, destroying the House of Wisdom and burning Baghdad. They threw millions of books into the river. The city never recovered its former glory, but the ideas lived on.

Key People

Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khawarizmi CE 780—CE 850	- Father of algebra - Introduced Arabic numbers 1-9 and the concept of 'zero'
Harun al-Rashid CE 763—CE 809	- 5th Caliph of Abbasid dynasty - His reign considered to be Golden Age of Islam - Developed Baghdad into modern city
Abu al-Qasim Khalaf ibn al-Abbas al-Zahrawi CE 936—CE 1013	- New surgical techniques, eg. Cauterisation - New surgical tools, eg. forceps

Key Texts

<p>1001 Arabian Nights</p> <p>A collection of Middle Eastern folk stories compiled in Arabic during the Islamic Golden Age. The work was collected over many centuries by various authors, translators and scholars. Common to all editions is the framing device of the story of the ruler Shahryar being narrated tales by his wife, Scheherezade.</p>	<p>The Golden Horsemen of Baghdad by Saviour Pirotta</p> <p>Thirteen-year-old Jabir is hoping to save his family from being made homeless by finding work in Baghdad. Famished after his long journey to the city, Jabir is caught stealing bread and is sent to prison. His adventures don't end there, as he ends up in front of the caliph, Harun al-Rashid.</p>
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Key Vocabulary

Caliph	A leader of a caliphate—a political-religious form of government of a Muslim community	Calligraphy	Decorative handwritten writing
Dynasty	A succession of rulers of a country or civilisation. Generally an inherited title.	The Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe.