

Where Is Baghdad?



Hulago Khan, the leader of the Mongols, found victory in 1258AD after he and a huge army won the Battle of Baghdad. He tries to get people of the early Islamic civilisation to surrender and because they wouldn't, his army attacked them. After this Baghdad was a ruined city and took several decades to only gradually recover.

Early Islamic Civilisations

Where did they live? Is it similar to the Vikings?

In the earliest times (900AD) people lived a nomadic lifestyle in tents so that they could easily move around. This suited their lifestyle of herding animals.

As time progressed and more buildings started to be built, Baghdad was named 'The Round City' because it was built in a circle with the most important buildings in the centre. The houses were made of mudbricks, stone or wood. The houses were decorated with textiles and pottery.

Vikings spent most of their time farming and fishing.

The Vikings grew wheat to make bread and beer, and raised animals such as sheep, pigs and cattle. The seas were very important for Viking life and fishing provided a big part of the Viking diet. Their homes had thick walls made from wood and mud and the roofs were layered with thick turfs of grass or thatched with branches and reeds. Viking fortresses were circular with roads going out from the centre.



Timeline of events

Enquiry question
What do we know about the rise and fall of Baghdad?

Key vocabulary	Meaning
The Caliphate	The government of early Islam.
Caliph	The ruler of the Caliphate.
Round city	Baghdad was named 'The Round City' because it was built in a circle with the most important buildings in the centre.
House of wisdom	A big academy where people could learn.
Mongols	A tribe of nomads who lived on horse back and came from the north and northern Asia.
trade	Swapping things.
Muslim	A person who follows the Islamic faith.
Muhammad	The prophet of Islam, the founder of Islam.

206BC
The silk road was made a trade route

570AD
Muhammad was born in Mecca.

610AD
The religion of Islam was created by Muhammad.

622AD
Muhammad and his followers were forced out of Mecca.

637AD
Islam spreads to Persia, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

725AD
Baghdad was built.

830AD
The house of Wisdom was built. It was a library and research facility. By 860AD it had the largest collection of books in the world.

1258AD
The Mongols from the north invaded Islamic lands, destroyed the house of wisdom, and killed thousands.

The silk road

In the past, goods had to be moved across land using animals, such as camels, horses and mules. Because of this it is important that routes were as direct and safe as possible.

Ancient Chinese ruling families were known as Dynasties. The Han Dynasty was from 206BC - 220AD.

For thousands of years silk had been used in China but how it was made was kept a secret from the rest of the world. Chinese silk was very valuable.

During the Han Dynasty a trading route was established where Chinese silk could be transported and sold across Asia and in to Europe. This route is now known as 'The Silk Road.'

As Baghdad is positioned in the centre of Europe, Africa and Asia it became crucial for trade.

Many things were traded along the silk road such as spices, perfumes, ivory, gold and paper.

Although the silk road isn't used for trading anymore, people still visit the road today!



The house of wisdom

The house of wisdom was a huge academy where people studied. It had a huge library, which contained the biggest collection of books in the world. The books were translated from ancient Roman and Greek texts in to Arabic so more people could read them.

Early Islamic civilisation is often also known as the Golden Age of Islam. During this time period, education was highly valued. Many printing presses were created to help spread the work of Islamic scholars.

The Abbasid caliphs (leaders) wanted people to learn, the city had many universities and libraries as well as the house of wisdom.

Some of the first hospitals came from the early Islamic civilisations because doctors studied the body and learned about different diseases.



What impact did Baghdad trade have on the rest of the world?

Baghdad region itself had its own products like Qashani (ceramic pots), paper or textiles that were exported to China, Morocco, as well as to the Roman Empire. In addition, a huge market was located at the entrance of the city where the merchants stopped. Therefore, they encountered and exchanged with their peers from other regions. Baghdad was one of the main sources of silk, raw silk, and velvet products. Due to its geographical position, Baghdad acted as a hub for trade to various regions and cities around the world through the Silk road. However, the city was also situated on the Tigris river which ran through the city, it meant that hundreds of ships could be used to transport goods from even further away. This allowed populations to mix and share their local produce with each other. For example, it meant that we had access to lots of different products we otherwise wouldn't have been able to access.

