

Key dates

1	570 AD	Muhammed was born in the town of Mecca.
2	610 AD	Muhammad spent the night in a cave. Muslims say that while he was there, he received messages from God.
3	632 AD	Muhammed dies. The first Caliph, Abu Bakr, took over.
4	711 AD	The Umayyad Caliphate invaded most of Spain and Portugal.
5	750 AD	The Abbasid family seized control of the Muslim Empire in the east. The second caliph of the Abbasid Empire, Abu Ja'far al-Mansur, moved the capital city from Damascus to Baghdad.
6	751 AD	Battle of Tallas.
7	756 AD	Al Andulus split from the rest of the Islamic Empire and made Cordoba its capital city.
8	900A D-1200 AD	Golden Age of Early Islamic Civilisation.

Key Vocabulary

1	Merchant	Anyone who is involved in business or trade.
2	Trade	The buying and selling of goods and services.
3	Caliph	The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler, regarded as the successor of Muhammad.
4	Empire	A group of nations or peoples ruled over by an emperor, empress, or other powerful sovereign or government
5	Trade Route	A long-distance route along which commercial goods are transported.
6	Fertile land	Any land capable of being ploughed and used to grow crops.
7	Tax	Money that people have to pay to the government
8	Civilisation	A group of people with their own languages and way of life.

Key achievements

1	Literature	Baghdad was a city of many bookshops.
2	Mathematics	The Arabic number system was invented.
3	Astronomy	Astronomers built observatories on top of their houses to observe stars.
4	Medicine	People knew about a range of treatments using herbs as well as understanding the importance of hospitals.
5	Geography	They were keen to find out about the world beyond and made maps.
6	Science and technology	They developed the idea of a magnetic compass.

Key Places

1	Mesopotamia	The word Mesopotamia means "the land between rivers". When people say Mesopotamia they are referring to a section of land in the Middle East between and around the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
2	Makkah (Mecca)	Mecca is a city in Saudi Arabia, a country in the Middle East. The city was the birthplace of Muhammad, the founder of Islam.
3	Arabia	The original homeland of the Arab people.
4	Cordoba	The capital of the Caliphate of Cordoba, an Islamic empire in the Middle Ages, when the city was the biggest in Europe, with 250,000 people
5	Baghdad	During the period, Baghdad was the largest city in the world, with a population of about 1 million. Situated between two rivers, it was also at the centre of the world's great trade routes.
6	Silk Road	An ancient network of trade routes which connected Europe and Asia

Key significant figures

1	Muhammed	The founder of Islam.
2	Abu Talib	Uncle of the Islamic prophet Muhammad.
3	Khadijah	The first wife of the Prophet Muhammad.
4	Abu-Bakr	The first Caliph after Muhammed died.
5	Al-Razi	A successful doctor and chief physician at hospitals in Baghdad.