



# History – What was the golden age of the Islamic civilisation? (Year 6)



## Key Vocabulary

**scholar** – someone who has good knowledge of a subject.

**prophet** – someone who shares a message they believe comes from God.

**trade** – buying and selling of goods and services.

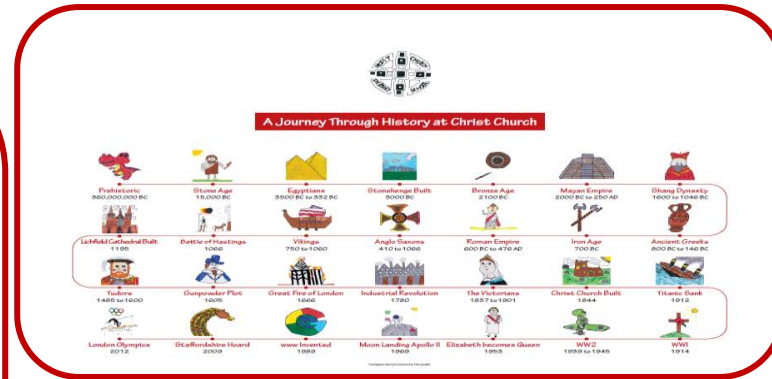
**calligraphy** – the art of beautiful handwriting.

**celestial** – something linked to the sky or outer space.

**astronomy** – the study of the universe and everything in it.

**geometric** – mathematics that deals with points, lines and angles.

**vegetal** – patterns based on plants and animals.



## Key Dates

AD 632	Muhammad dies and Muslims struggle to agree who should be the next <b>caliph</b> . The first four <b>caliphs</b> appointed after this time come to represent an age of 'pure <b>Islam</b> '. When the last, Ali, was assassinated in AD 661, the Umayyad <b>dynasty</b> of <b>caliphs</b> took over for nearly a century. After that began the reign of the Abbasid <b>caliphs</b> .
AD 752	<b>Caliph</b> 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 <b>Silk Road</b> , and became known as the cultural and learning capital of the world.
AD 830	The House of Wisdom is built in Baghdad.
AD 1000	Al-Zahrawi finishes his medical book Al Tasrif. It will be used by doctors for another 500 years.
AD 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.

## What is The Islamic Golden Age?

The Islamic golden age refers to the Islamic empire during the middle ages which later became one of the largest empires in history. During the Golden Age, Baghdad became a centre of knowledge and culture.

Major advances were made in science, maths and medicine. Scholars travelled to the city from all around the world to study. Baghdad sits on the banks of the River Tigris. Sailors and merchants brought precious items from around the world to the city. As well as being a Muslim community, people with other beliefs lived there, including Jews and Christians.

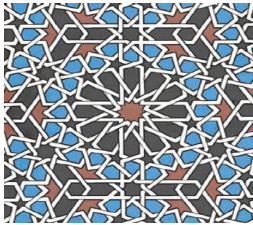
It is believed that during this period of prosperity, the population of Baghdad reached 2 million people at its peak! The Golden Age ended in 1258 CE when the Mongols defeated the Abbasids. The Abbasids fled to Egypt. Baghdad became the centre for learning where people travelled all over the world.



## Islamic Art

Islamic art includes architecture, calligraphy, painted glass, illustrated patterns, pottery, and textile arts.

### Geometric Patterns



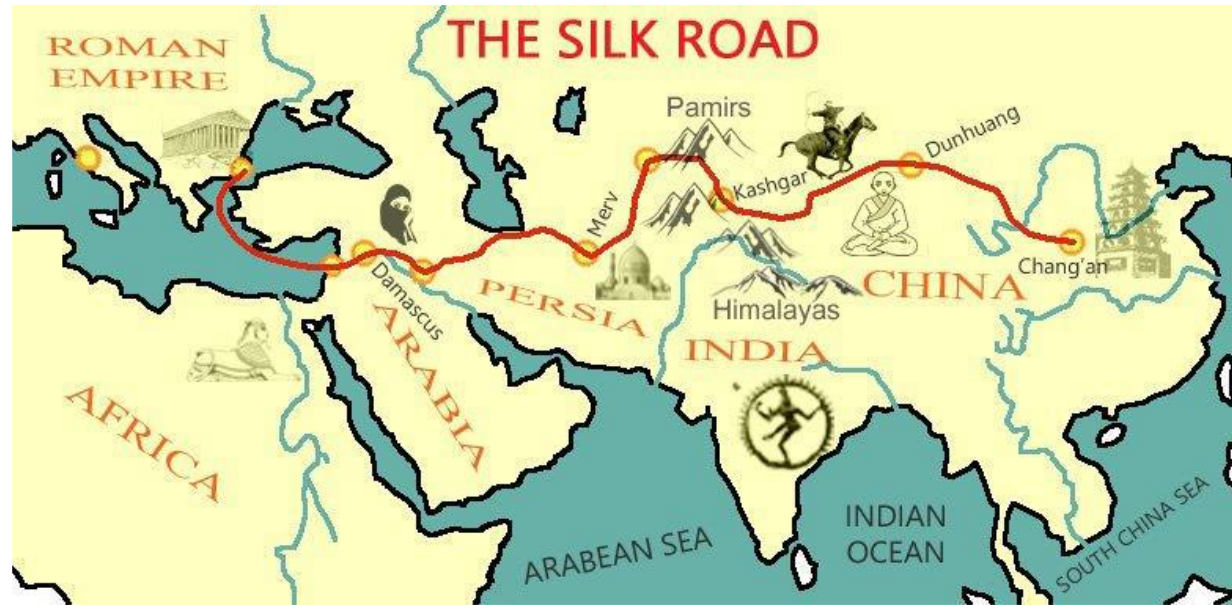
Vegetal



Calligraphy



## The Silk Road



### Impacts

The Islamic Empire greatly contributed to the advancement of many fields such as literature and philosophy, science and medicine, mathematics, and art.

Islamic mathematicians also made the first systematic study of algebra.

Horizontal-plane Windmills first appeared during the Islamic Golden Age.

Islamic astronomers built large observatories for viewing the stars. They also designed detailed celestial globes showing the positions of the stars and planets in relation to the Earth.

### The House of Wisdom

Bayt al-Hikma, the 'House of Wisdom', was founded by Caliph Harun al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited scholars of different faiths to his court, treating them with great respect. The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility which collected and translated writing from many cultures, including Persian, Indian, ancient Greek and Roman texts. By AD 900, the House of Wisdom stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant minds to study there.

