

BAGHDAD 900AD

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Key Fact:

The four gates were

all eventually

destroyed, and new

ones built elsewhere.

Key Fact:

Diagram - Baghdad c.900-1200

Prominent Figures in Early Baghdad



The City Structure of Baghdad c.900-1200AD

The city was known as 'The Round City.' It was built as two giant semicircles with a mosque at the centre. It housed the caliph's palace, government and military buildings. Residential areas for common people was outside the city walls.

Caliph Al-Mansur - 714-775 AD

Al-Mansur was the second Abbasid Caliph.

who reigned from 754 to 775CE. He is often

Ibn al-Haytham - c.965-c.1040 AD

mathematician, astronomer, and scientist of the

Islamic Golden Age. He is sometimes referred to

Al-Tabari – 839-923 AD

Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari was a scholar and

historian, who composed all of his works in

world history and understanding of the Our'an, however he

also wrote about subjects as diverse as poetry, grammar and

mathematics. He was exceptionally gifted – he memorized

the Our'an at the age of 7 and was a prayer leader by 8!

Arabic. He is best known for his knowledge of

as the 'Father of Modern Optics' due to his

thought of as the first real founder of the

Abbasid Caliphate, for his role in growing and stabilizing the

dynasty's rule. He is known for founding the 'Round City' of

Madinat Al-Salam (now known as Baghdad). Al-Mansur

assassinated several of his rivals to strengthen his reign, for

Hasan Ibn al-Haytham was an Arab

example the powerful army commander Abu Muslim.

contributions to the understanding of how humans and

point out that vision occurs in the brain, not the eyes.

animals see. He was the first to identify that light bounces off

an object and then travels to the eye. He was also the first to

Early Baghdad Overview

-The Abbasid Calaphate, under the Caliph al-Mansur, moved the capital of the Muslim world to 'Madinat al Salam' in 762 AD. -It later became Baghdad.

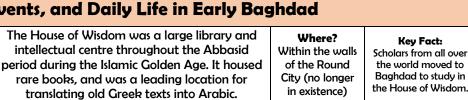
-It is estimated that between c.900-1200, the population reached between 1.2 and 2 million people (the largest city in the world at the time).

-It was a world centre of learning, including the 'House of Wisdom', which attracted many scholars from all around the world.

-At this time, Islamic law and Arabic grammar were standardised.

-The city was destroyed by Mongols in 1258.

Places, Events, and Daily Life in Early Baghdad



House of

Wisdom

The Four Gates

The Golden

Gate Palace



buildings were all placed inside the gates. At the centre of the city stood the two finest buildings, the Golden Gate Palace and The Great Mosque. Surrounding the palace was a promenade, where only the caliph was allowed, riding on horseback.

The city had four gates: Bab al-Kufa, Bab al-

Sham, Bab al-Khorasan and Bab al-Basra. The

walls and gates were designed to protect the

city from foreign invasions. The most important

Where? **Key Fact:** Centre of the In the central part Round City (no of the building was longer in a dome 39 metres high. existence)

The Tigris River



The Round City was built alongside the River Tigris, It is the easternmost of the two great rivers that define the Mesopotamia region. The river granted easy access to traders and travellers to and from the Persian Sea.

Runs from southeastern mountains of Turkey to Persian

Where?

Where?

Four

equidistant

points around

the city walls.

The Tigris is about 1,750km long! How? **Key Fact:**

Founding the City



The city was founded by the caliph Al-Mansur, with the intention of creating a new capital; after defeating the Umayyads, the Caliphate wanted to rule from his own seat. The Siege of Baghdad lasted from January 29th

Al-Mansur used Al-Mansur consulted thousands of astrologers before ngineers, surveyor beginning construction! blacksmiths

Siege of

Baghdad



until February 10th, 1258. Led by Hulagu Khan (brother of the ruler, Mongke) the Mongols held a 12 day siege of the city. The caliph, Al Musta'sim, then surrendered. The Mongols executed Al Musta'sim, destroyed the city, and

massacred citizens. The event is considered the end of the Islamic Golden Age.

The gathering of new minds meant an increase

in agricultural knowledge and techniques. The

The caliph's complacency appears to have ost him. His soldie were ill-prepared and others from across the caliph did not arrive to rescu the city

How?

Islamic scientific

enowledge gided

How?

Cloth wrapped

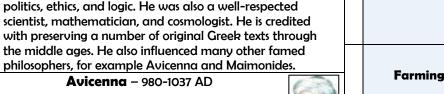
How?

around the head as

Key Fact: Mongke had planned to spare the city, until Al Musta'sim refused to submit to his power and provide troops to help him!

Key Fact:

Every June,



Avicenna (also known as Ibn Sina or Ibn Ali Sina) was one of the most important physicians and scientists of the Islamic Golden Age, and also one of the most important people in early modern medicine. We wrote around 450 works, of which 240 have survived until the present day. He wrote two famous encyclopedias: The Book of Healing and The Canon of Medicine, the latter of which was used as standard at medical universities until 1650.

Al-Jahiz - 776-868/9 AD

works of literature and political/religious texts.

He was born into a poor family, however this did

not stop him from gaining an insatiable appetite for

learning. He became extremely knowledgeable about

200 texts, of which around 30 are still in existence today.

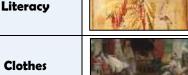
history and the sciences, amongst other topics. He wrote over

Al-Farabi - c.872-950/951 AD

Alpharabius) was a well-known philosopher, who

added a great deal of knowledge to the fields of

Al-Farabi (known throughout the west as



introduction of new crops and foods signalled a sharp rise in population growth. Literacy was highly valued – people were expected to learn Arabic so that they could read the Qur'an. The spread of literacy meant that ideas could now reach a wider audience.

farming stopped as the Nile flooded. developmen How? The rise of using paper helped

Kev Fact: The numbers system we use now was to share texts. perfected at this time.



Both Islamic beliefs, and protection from the sun, required people to cover up their bodies (particularly women). Long, loose, cool clothing a turban protected was therefore worn, made from cloth and linen. people from the sun.

Kev Fact: Silb was first used in this area throughout this period.

Key Fact:

Al-Jahiz was an Arabic prose writer and author of



charge, and provided them with accommodation until they were cured. Studies of the anatomy led to improvements in surgical techniques. Islamic art and design flourished throughout

Hospitals of the time treated all patients without

They used the Modern hospitals scalpel and cat have their origins in hospitals of this to open and sew wounds. period.

Art and Design

Health

Whv? this period. Complex geometric designs were lamic decoratio fashionable, including tessellating patterns on avoids using figures, so focuses roof and floors. Notable developments were on patterns. also made in ceramics and calligraphy.

Key Fact: Beautifully designed gardens with water features cooled the city.

Early Baghdad Timeline

750AD – Abbasid dynasty becomes the rulers of the **Muslim Empire**

762 AD - Caliph Al Mansur founds the city of Baghdad. Construction begins.

706-809 AD - House of Wisdom and Baghdad hospital are founded.

950 AD – Al-Farabi, philosopher and resident of Baghdad for most of his life, dies.

1021 AD - Ibn al-Haytham publishes his book of optics. Many scholars live in Baghdad. 1037 AD - Death of Avicenna, who made important discoveries about disease.

1055 AD - Baghdad captured by Seljuk Turks.

1096 AD-Crusades begin.

1258 AD -Mongols sack Baghdad.