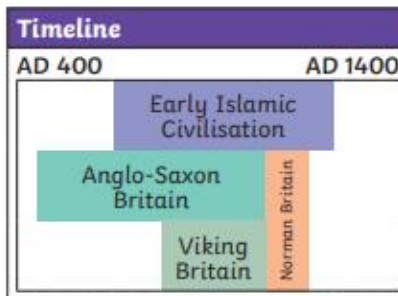


# EARLY ISLAMIC CIVILISATIONS

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.



**Islamic Art**

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

**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.

Key Vocabulary	
<b>Islam</b>	A religion founded by Muhammad, who was born in Mecca in AD 570. People who practise <b>Islam</b> are called Muslims.
<b>caliph</b>	A <b>caliph</b> is the leader of a caliphate - a political-religious form of government of a Muslim community. A <b>caliph</b> had to be Muslim, male, sane, fair, just and law-abiding.
<b>dynasty</b>	A succession of rulers of a country or civilisation. Generally the next ruler in the <b>dynasty</b> inherits the title.
<b>scholar</b>	A person dedicated to learning, often at a high level and in a particular area of study.
<b>calligraphy</b>	Decorative handwritten lettering.
<b>vegetal</b>	Consisting of foliage and flowers.
<b>geometric</b>	Repeating, interlaced or overlapped shapes.
<b>Silk Road</b>	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.

Islamic Scholars and Their Achievements	
Abu Abdullah Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi AD 780 – AD 850	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Father of algebra'</li> <li>• Introduced Arabic numbers 1-9 and the concept of 'zero'</li> </ul>
Muhammad ibn Zakariya al-Razi AD 854 - AD 925	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment of smallpox and measles</li> <li>• Study of eyes</li> <li>• Recognised the importance of doctor/patient relationships</li> </ul>
Abu al-Qasim Khalaf ibn al-Abbas al-Zahrawi AD 936 – AD 1013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New surgical techniques, e.g. cauterisation</li> <li>• New surgical tools, e.g. forceps</li> </ul>
Ibn al-Haytham AD 965 – AD 1040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proved that light travels in straight lines</li> <li>• Invented the first camera</li> </ul>

Baghdad and the Islamic Empire	London and Europe
Baghdad population: over a million	London population: approximately 20,000
Millions of books, many thousands of readers.	Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.
Clean water and good drainage in cities.	Very little drainage in cities, water supplies were unsafe.
Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of 'zero'.	Basic mathematics, with Roman numerals and no concept of 'zero'
General peace across a huge Islamic empire.	Many wars between Christian kingdoms.