

Key Learning

In 762 AD the Abbasid Caliphate, under the Caliph al-Mansur, moved the capital of the Muslim world to the newly founded city of Baghdad. The city, known as 'the Round City', was built as two large semicircles. The caliph's palace was in the centre with a mosque next to it.

Baghdad was in the middle of the whole Islamic world. Situated between two rivers, it had rich farming land. Goods could be traded along the rivers and by many land routes known as the silk roads.

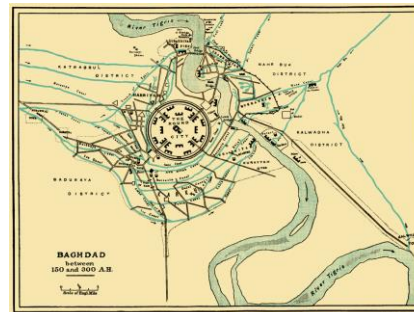
Al-Mansur sent out a decree. He called for skilled people to help him build his city. Al-Mansur offered to pay them well because people in his conquered lands paid him taxes. By the tenth century, a million people lived in Baghdad.

The caliphs wanted Baghdad to be a city of learning and new ideas. When traders and merchants brought their goods, they also brought their knowledge from distant places. Some ancient Greek books were preserved in the Byzantine Empire. These books were sent to Baghdad and then the scholars translated them in the House of Wisdom. Scholars were sent to distant places and collected texts that were brought back to Baghdad. Madrasas were built for studying.

Scholars studied knowledge from Euclid's book. Muslim Arabs also studied the numeral system from Hindus in India and they used ancient Greek ideas for astronomy in particular the work of Ptolemy.

From the Greek books, Baghdad scholars learnt about healing and medicine. They studied the work of the doctor Galen. They also made their own medical discoveries. Rhazes (a great doctor) wrote two hundred books on medicine. Muslim Arabs also introduced the first training and qualifications for doctors.

The round city: Baghdad



The round city: Baghdad Timeline

754 AD

Al-Mansur became the new Abbasid ruler.

762 AD

Caliph Al-Mansur founded the city of Baghdad.

764-768 AD

Construction of city of Baghdad.

786-809 AD

House of Wisdom and Baghdad hospital are founded.

800 AD

Baghdad becomes the largest city in the world.

900 AD

Baghdad had the largest collection of books in the world.

Vocabulary

anatomy	the branch of science concerned with the bodily structure of humans, animals, and other living organisms.
astrolabe	an instrument used to make astronomical measurements.
astrologer	a person who studies astrology.
astrology	the study of the influence that the stars and planets may have on people's lives.
decree	an official order or decision by a ruler or government.
dirhams	special coins that al-Mansur had minted.
encyclopaedia	a very large book that contains a bit of knowledge on every possible topic.
evolved	to develop gradually; come into being.
influence	the power or invisible action of a thing or person that causes some kind of effect on another.
madrasa	a college.
observatory	a building that has equipment for studying the sun, moon, planets, and stars.
optics	the scientific study of sight and the behaviour of light.
revenue	the money a government makes by collecting taxes.
scholar	a person who has much knowledge, usually acquired from research and study.
silk roads	a name given to the ancient trade routes between China and southern Europe, through southern Asia.
quilts	made of layers of fabric, sewn together so that it feels soft and spongy to sit on.

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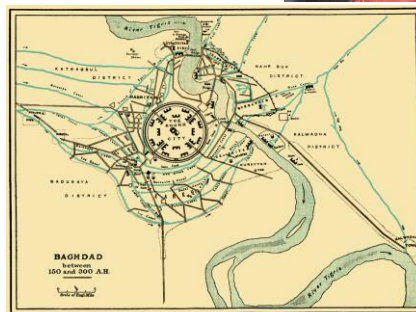
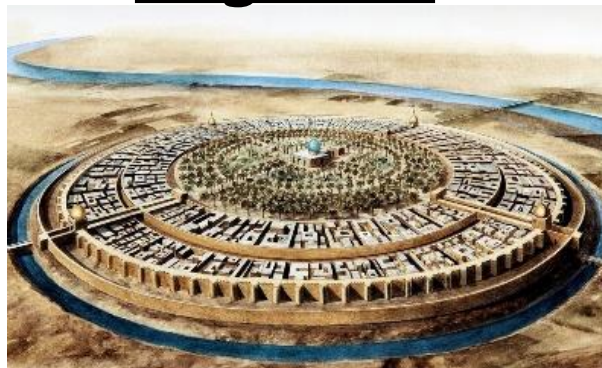
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astrology



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decree



dirhams



encyclopedia



evolved



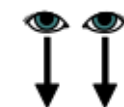
influence



madrasa



observatory



optics



revenue



scholar



silk roads



quilts

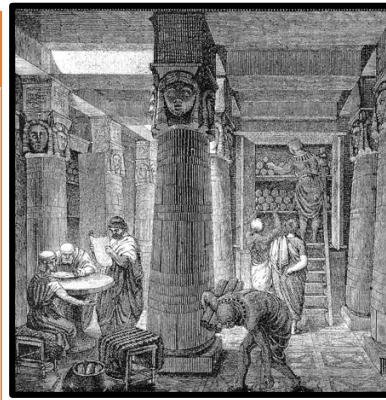
Rights and Global Goals

Rights

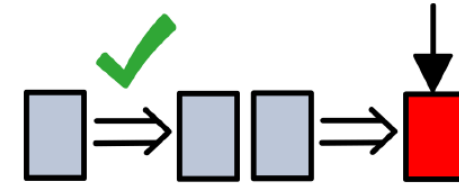


Global goals

No 3. Good Health and Wellbeing
No 4. Quality Education
No 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
No 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



Big Ideas



Cause and Consequence

Prior Learning

- Year 3- Alexander the Great and the library of Alexandria and the work of Claudius Ptolemy
- Year 4- Christianity in Three Empires (Byzantine Empire)
- Year 4- Early Islam and Arabia

National Treasures

- Bodleian Old Library, the University of Oxford
- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- Isaac Newton (astronomer)
- Stephen Hawking (astronomer)