

Eastern Empires

Year 5

Purpose

Throughout this unit, the children will be introduced to the history in the Middle East, starting with an understanding of Baghdad's role in the early Islamic civilisation. They will evaluate the impact of early Islamic scholars and the formation of the first caliphate on the wider world. As they look into these areas in more depth, they will extend their knowledge and wider understanding of trade and the growth of an empire, whilst making links to previous learning.

Vocabulary

Islam

Caliph

Caliphate

Trade route

Scholars

Key Facts

For around a thousand years (around AD 700), a vast Islamic civilisation spread from Baghdad, through North Africa and into Spain. Whilst Northern Europe was involved in many wars across its various Christian kingdoms, for the countries of the Islamic Empire, this period was one of general peace and had a huge emphasis on scientific and mathematical knowledge.

Learning and knowledge were placed at the centre of life in Baghdad, which became the cultural capital of the world. Many scholars travelled there to share, research, and advance their knowledge. Baghdad began to attract people from all parts of the world to trade, study and work there.



Prior Knowledge

- The impact of developing settlements, both locally and nationally, has already been explored.
- Revolutionary developments have been studied through the 'Ancient Egypt' and 'Proud to be a Brummie' projects.
- The development of transport nationally has been explored through 'Proud to be a Brummie' and 'Travel and Transport'.
- We've explored how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

Useful Links and Media

[BBC introduction to Eastern empires](#)



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