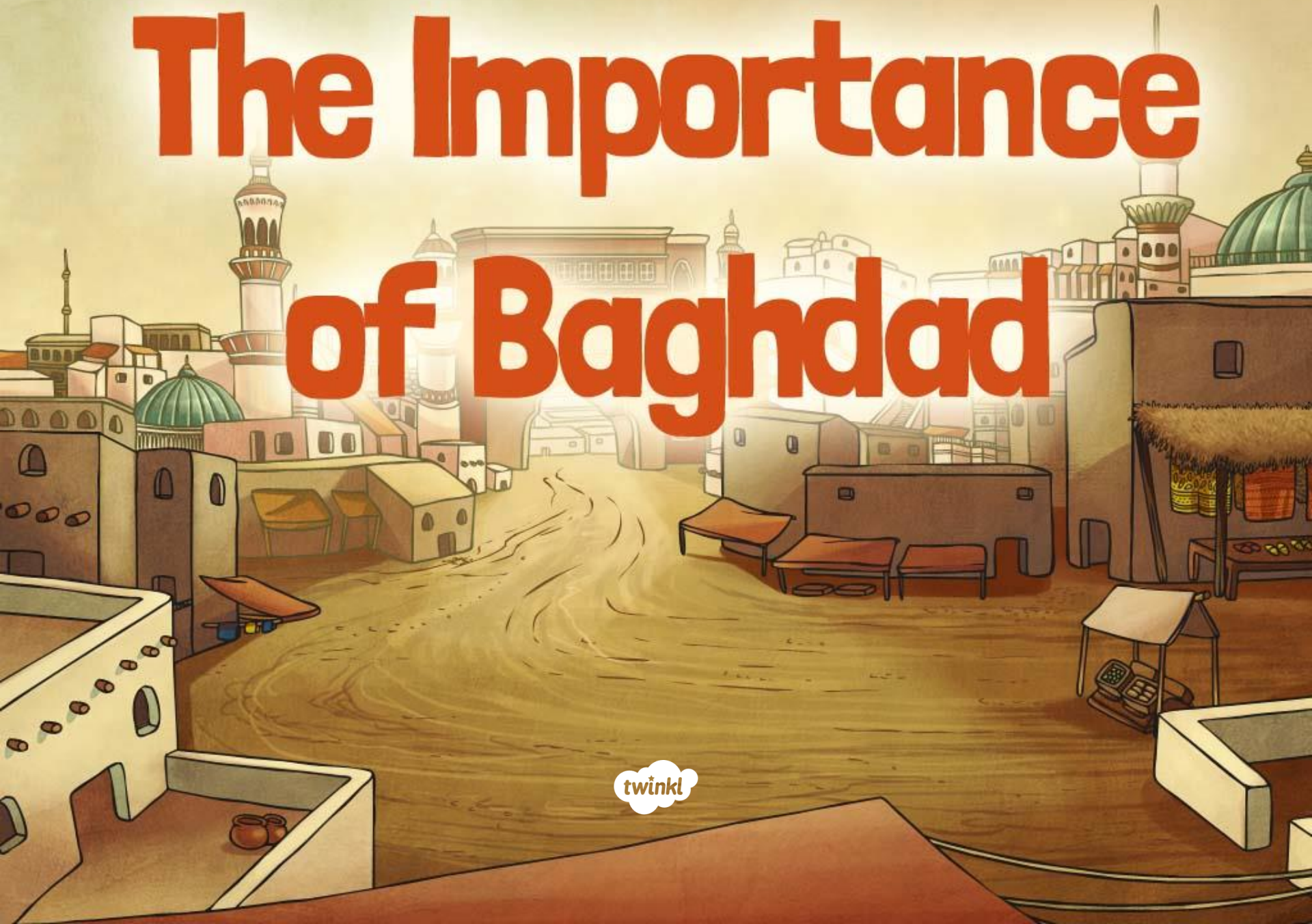


The Importance of Baghdad



Aim

- I can find out about Baghdad's role in the early Islamic civilisation.

Success Criteria

- I can recall some key facts about Baghdad.
- I can identify some similarities and differences between life in Baghdad and London in AD 900.
- I can compare life in the Islamic Empire with that in Europe in the 10th – 11th century.
- I can imagine and write about what life was like in Baghdad in AD 900.
- I can explain why Baghdad was such an important city in the Islamic Empire.

Question Time



Think of some questions that might have been asked if the answer is 'Baghdad'.

Write these questions down on your whiteboard.



The Rise of the Islamic Empire

AD 637: Islam spreads to Persia, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt.

AD 752: Baghdad is built to be the capital of the Islamic Empire.

AD 936: Al-Zahrawi is born. He refines the science of surgery and invents many surgical instruments.

AD 1325: Ibn Battuta leaves Tangier on his 29 year journey.

Islamic Empire

5th century

15th century

Roman Empire

The Dark Ages

Northern Europe

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.



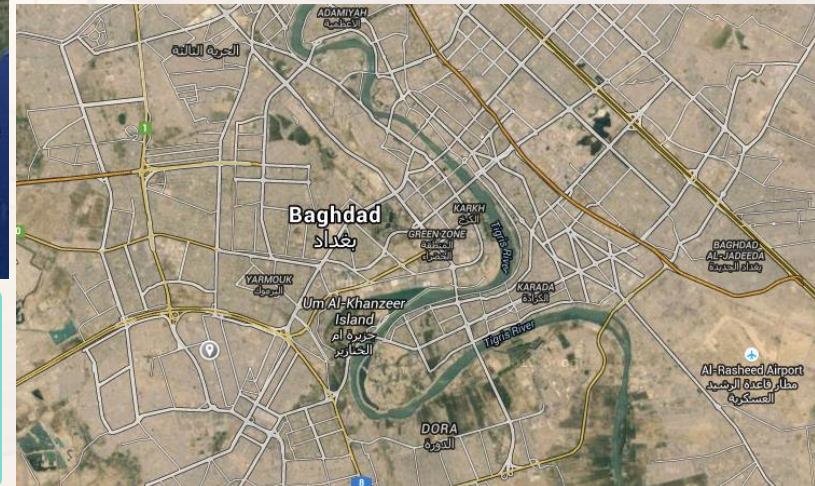
The Rise of the Islamic Empire



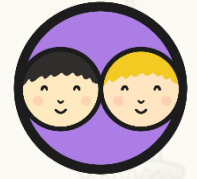
Questions

1. Which country is Baghdad located in?
2. What does the terrain look like?

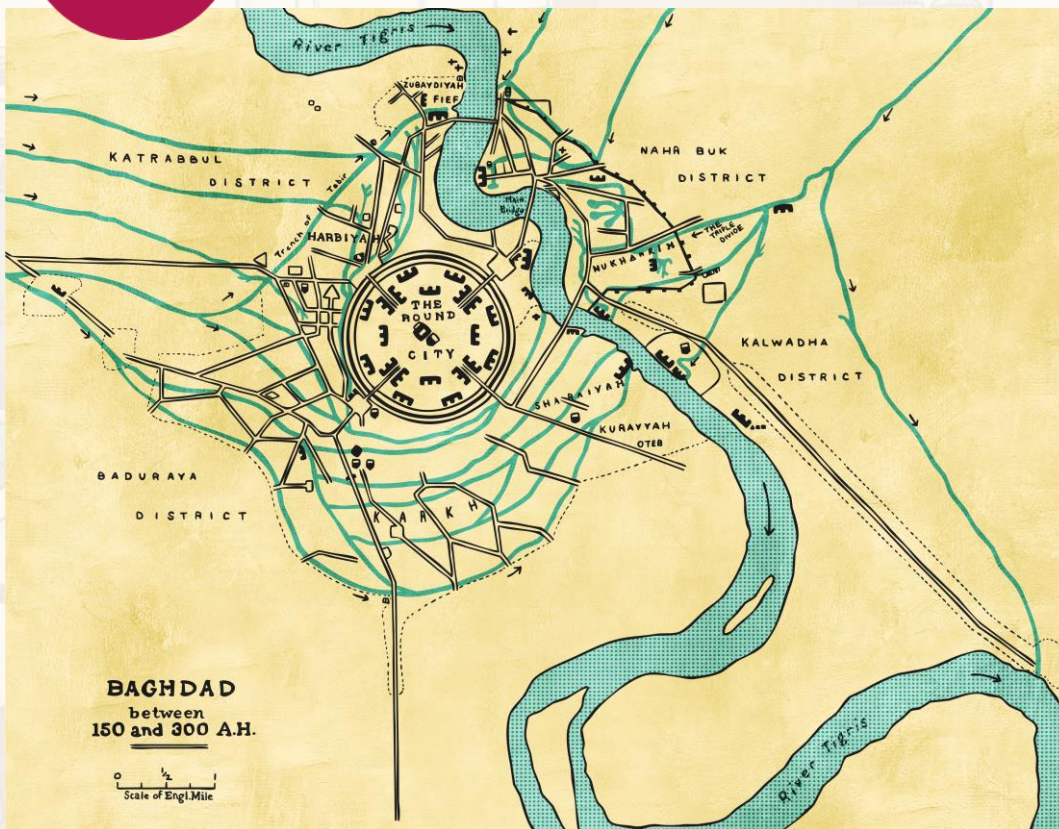
Which other cities can you think of that have a river running through them or close by?



Baghdad in AD 900



Let's watch what life was like in Baghdad in AD 900.



This is an old map of Baghdad.

1. Can you see the river?
2. What shape does Baghdad look like?

Your Task

Listen to or read the information about Baghdad to complete your notes together.

Baghdad in AD 900

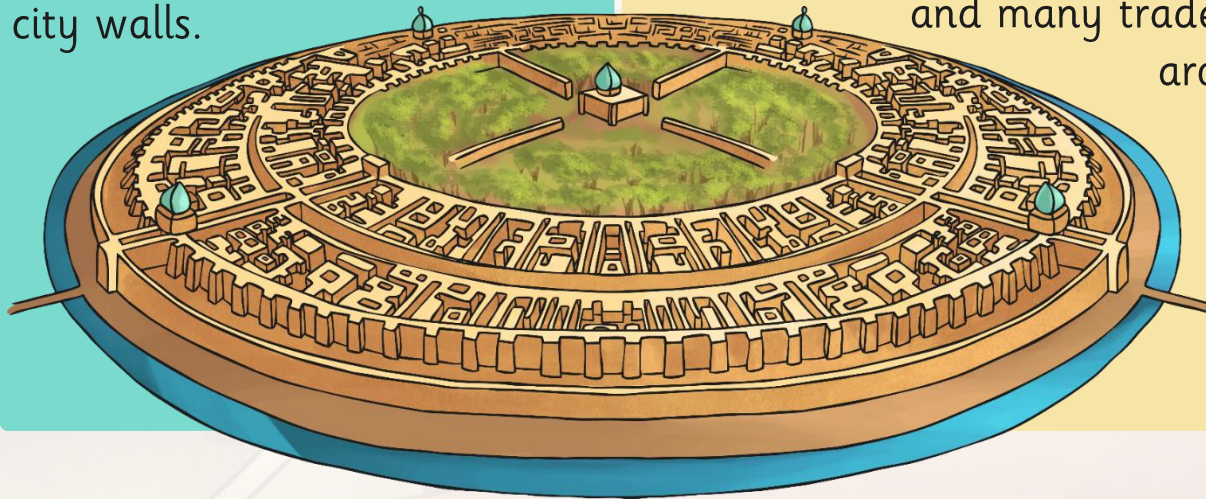


Baghdad was built in **AD 752** by **Caliph Al-Mansur** as the new capital of the Islamic Empire.

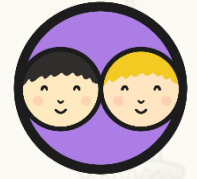
It was built in a **circle**, about 1km in diameter, with the **mosque and guard headquarters** in the centre. Houses were built around the city walls.

Baghdad's **location** was perfect for the city to succeed. It was close to water and established trade routes.

Major roads crossed through the city, and many traders set up **markets** around the entrances.



Baghdad in AD 900



Baghdad became known as the cultural and learning capital of the world. The world's **first universities and hospitals** were built there.



A **banking system** was set up so that people could trade and encouraged more people to settle close to the city.

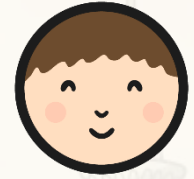


Over **1 million people** lived in Baghdad.



The **House of Wisdom** was built in Baghdad as the centre of learning and knowledge. Many scholars travelled there.

The Islamic Empire and Europe



What do you think were the main differences between living in the Islamic World and Europe around the 10th – 11th century.

Can you match the statement to the area of the world at this point in history?



Islamic Empire and Europe Comparison

Can you cut out and sort the statements into whether it relates to the Islamic Empire or Europe in around AD 1000?

The Islamic Empire AD 1000	Europe AD 1000

Very few books and hardly any readers.	Religion tended to be "blind" faith.
General peace across a huge empire.	About 20,000 people lived in London and its suburbs.
Very poor mathematics using Roman numerals and no zero.	Millions of books and many thousands of readers.
Many wars between kingdoms.	Religion tended to encourage scientific study.
Used advanced mathematics using Arabic numbers and zero.	Clean water and good drainage in cities.
Gathered and used books from the ancient Greeks/Romans.	Ignored the writings of ancient Greeks and Romans.
Unsafe water supplies and very little drainage in cities.	About one million people lived in Baghdad and its suburbs.

The Islamic Empire and Europe



The Islamic Empire

c. AD 1000

About one million people lived in Baghdad and its suburbs

Gathered and used books from the ancient Greeks/Romans

Millions of books and many thousands of readers.

Clean water and good drainage in cities

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Europe

c. AD 1000

About 20,000 people lived in London and its suburbs

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Very few books and hardly any readers

Unsafe water supplies and very little drainage in cities

Very poor mathematics using Roman numerals and no zero

Religion tended to encourage “blind” faith

Many wars between Christian kingdoms

Life in Baghdad and London



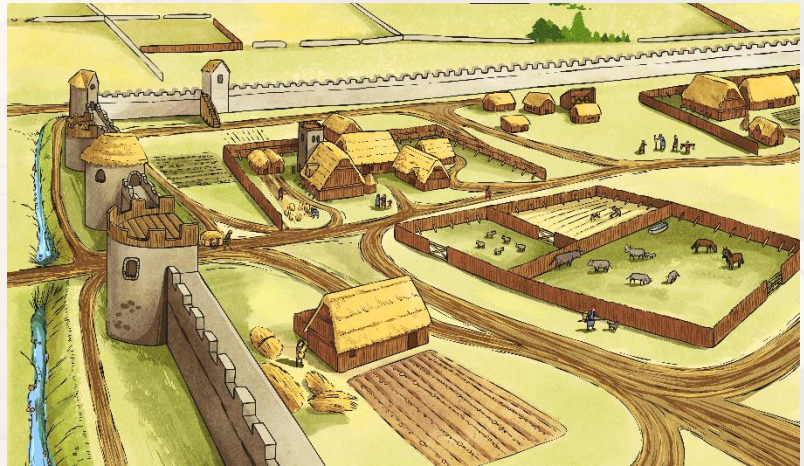
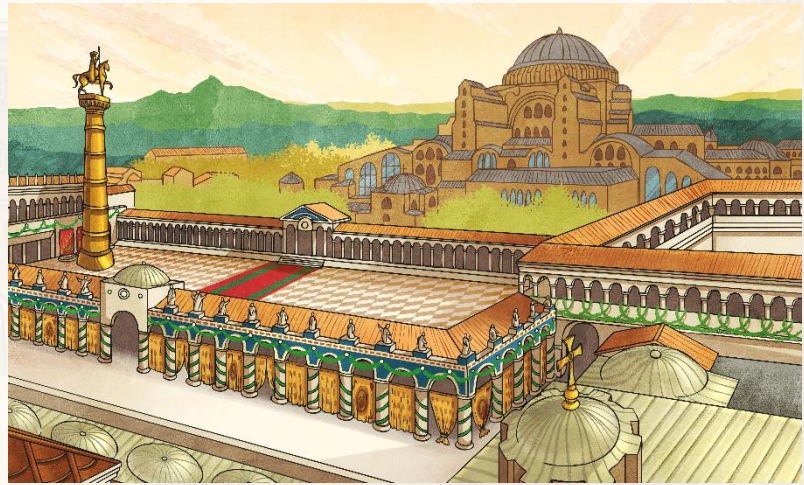
Questions

1. What do you think it was like to live in Baghdad and London in AD 900?
2. Where would you want to live? Why?
3. What questions would you want to ask people living in each place?

Questions

Make a list of questions you would like to ask:

- a) A person living in London in AD 900.
- b) A person living in Baghdad in AD 900.



Life in Baghdad and London



It's time to ask your questions. Are you surprised by any of the answers?



Learning and Living in Baghdad



Learning and knowledge was 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.

Imagine you are growing up in Baghdad in the year 900. Write a letter to your friend who lives elsewhere in the world, explaining why Baghdad is such an exciting city to live and study in.



Aim



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