



Runnymede St. Edwards School – Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

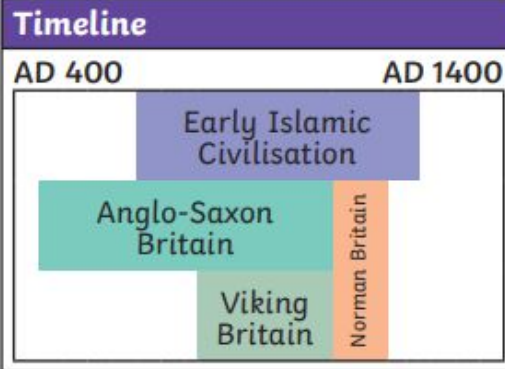
Unit: Arabia and Early Islam

Year: 4 and 5

Term: Summer 1

KEY VOCABULARY

Arabia
Arabs
Islam
Makkah
Muhammed
Bedouin
Petra
Medina



Arabia and early Islam



As a child, Muhammad would have:

lived in a Bedouin tent, sharing one side with the women and children;

learned the customs of the Bedouin, such as:

- welcoming strangers,
- helping the poor and sick,
- caring for widows and orphans;

listened to poems about Arab stories of love and war

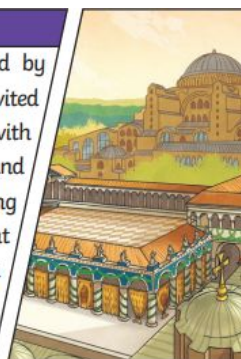
heard stories about Arabia's ancient pagan religion: the gods and spirits who the Arabs believed were living in sacred trees, stones and wells.

Muhammad also taught his followers to:

- care for orphans, widows, the poor and the weak;
- pray at regular times and wash before praying;
- live a simple life;
- **fast** (go without food periods of time).

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 Dates

AD 632	Muhammad dies and Muslims struggle to agree who should be the next caliph . The first four caliphs appointed after this time come to represent an age of 'pure Islam '. When the last, Ali, was assassinated in AD 661, the Umayyad dynasty of caliphs took over for nearly a century. After that began the reign of the Abbasid caliphs .
AD 752	Caliph 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 Silk Road , 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.