

HISTORY · Y4–Y6

# The Islamic Golden Age

Knowledge Organiser — Y4–Y6

## Key facts and vocabulary

### 1 When and where

Roughly 750 to 1258 CE — the Abbasid Caliphate, centred on Baghdad (present-day Iraq). A period of extraordinary intellectual, scientific, and cultural achievement.

### 2 The House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma)

A library and translation centre in Baghdad, founded around 830 CE under Caliph al-Ma'mun. Scholars translated Greek, Persian, and Indian texts into Arabic — preserving knowledge that Europe had lost.

### 3 Al-Khwarizmi (c.780–850)

Mathematician who invented algebra. The word 'algebra' comes from his book title ('Al-Jabr'). Also developed the algorithms we use today. The word 'algorithm' comes from his name.

### 4 Ibn Sina / Avicenna (980–1037)

Persian physician and philosopher. His 'Canon of Medicine' was used in European medical schools for 600 years.

### 5 Al-Idrisi (1100–1165)

Geographer who created one of the most accurate medieval maps of the world.

### 6 Astronomy

Islamic scholars preserved and extended Greek astronomical knowledge. The names of many stars are Arabic: Aldebaran, Betelgeuse, Rigel, Vega.



# Islamic Golden Age gave us

Knowledge that shapes the modern world

- MATHEMATICS: algebra, algorithms, Arabic numerals (0-9), trigonometry
- MEDICINE: advances in surgery, pharmacology, and hospital design
- ASTRONOMY: star names, telescopes, accurate star charts
- OPTICS: understanding of how light and lenses work
- PHILOSOPHY: preservation and extension of Greek philosophy
- GEOGRAPHY: accurate maps of the known world
- THE KEY POINT: while much of Europe was in its early medieval period, Islamic scholars were making the scientific advances that underpinned the European Renaissance. This knowledge was often transmitted back to Europe through Arabic translations.

