

Enquiry Questions: 1. Does Alexander deserve to be called the Great? 2. Al-Khwarizmi had a significant influence on the Western world. Discuss. 3. How were the achievements of the Ancient Greeks similar or different to those of the people living in Ancient Baghdad?

Early Islamic Civilisation

622 CE	The Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him) makes a pilgrimage from Mecca to Medina and establishes the first Islamic State.
632 CE	After the death of the Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him), control passes to the caliphs and the Islamic Empire extends into North Africa, Iran and Central Asia.
751 CE	Paper manufacturing begins in the Middle East. This becomes an important discovery for Muslim Scholars.
762 CE	The capital is moved to the newly founded city of Baghdad. Baghdad becomes the heart of the empire, the biggest city on earth and an important trade hub.
786 CE	The House of Wisdom is built. Classical works of Medicine, Maths, Astronomy and Philosophy are translated into Arabic.
830 CE	Algebra is invented by Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi.
900 CE	The Golden Age of Islam begins. Baghdad becomes a centre of knowledge and culture and advances are made in Science, Medicine and Maths. Scholars travel from all over the world to study in Baghdad.
1258 CE	The Mongols invade Baghdad to extend their empire. They capture the city, kill the last Caliph and destroy the House of Wisdom.

Ancient Greece

776 BCE	The first Olympic Games are held in honour of the god Zeus.
700 BCE	Homer writes the Odysseys and the Illiad, which tells the myth of the Trojan War.
508 BCE	Male citizens of Athens are given a chance to vote to decide how things in the city are run. Democracy is born.
500 BCE	The classical period starts, with scholars interested in arts, imagination and buildings. In 469 BCE, Socrates, one of the greatest Greek philosophers is born.
472 BCE	Greek theatre becomes popular in Athens.
460 BCE	Hippocrates, 'the father of Modern Medicine' is born. Many of his ideas are still used today.
336 BCE	Alexander the Great takes over the rule of Greece. He is a great Macedonian leader. In 334BC he leads an army into 10 years of wars with the mighty Persian Empire. He defeats them in 324BC but dies soon after.
146 BCE	Rome conquers the Corinthians at the Battle of Corinth and Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Key Vocabulary

Acropolis	<i>A settlement on high ground - the best known acropolis is in Athens and was built as a monument to the city's greatness</i>
Democracy	<i>A form of government in which citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws</i>
Oligarchy	<i>A form of government where the power is held by only a few people</i>
Olympics	<i>An athletic event held every four years, it first began in Ancient Greece</i>
Titans	<i>The first Greek Gods</i>
Tyrant	<i>The ruler of a Greek city-state who seized power unfairly</i>
Caliph	<i>The ruler who led the Caliphate</i>
Caliphate	<i>The name given to the Muslim government that ruled the Islamic Empire</i>
Mosque	<i>An Islamic place of worship</i>
House of wisdom	<i>Located in Ancient Baghdad, this was a library, translation centre and place of learning</i>
Mongols	<i>A tribe of nomads who rode on horseback through Central and Northern Asia. A Mongol army were set the target of capturing Syria, Persia and Egypt</i>
Dinar	<i>A gold coin used in the Islamic Empire</i>
Polymath	<i>A person of wide knowledge or learning across a number of subjects</i>

Notable Advances in Science, Medicine and Mathematics

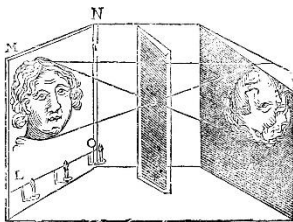
Doctors from Islamic countries enjoyed great respect. Surgeon Al-Zahrawi invents medical instruments and writes the first illustrated surgical book. Many of his inventions (such as the syringe) are still used today.

Aristotle was the first to suggest the earth was a globe

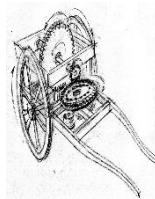


Ibn Sina wrote the Canon of Medicine in the Islamic Empire in 1025, one of the most important medical textbooks ever written. It was used for longer than any other medical book and was still in use 800 years later across the globe.

In 3rd Century BC, the Greek engineer Philo of Byzantium built a Perachora wheel, which used water as power.



In the 10th Century, Ibn Al Haytham used a Chinese invention, the camera obscura, to explain how our vision worked.



Odometers to measure distance were first invented by Archimedes in Ancient Greece - they were then used by the Romans to help build roads.

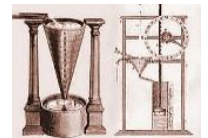
In 850, the book of Ingenious Devices was written - a large illustrated work on mechanical devices such as automatons.

Pythagoras, Euclid and Archimedes were Greek mathematicians who discovered laws that are still taught today

Abbas Ibn Firnas made a famous attempt at a controlled flight, building himself a simple handglider.



Ctesibius (285-222 BC) and Plato (428-348 BC) were said to have fitted water clocks with alarm systems, such as pebbles falling, to make the first alarm clocks.

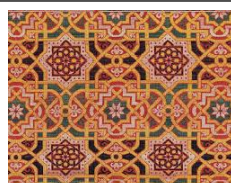


Art



Much of Islamic Art uses distinct and intricate designs or geometric patterns. 'Arabesque' uses a design of leaves and flowers and is common in textiles and wooden carvings.

Islamic artists also used patterns called tessellations in their designs.



Minarets (beacon in Arabic) are a feature of Islamic Architecture - they are the tower from which Muslims are called to prayer five times each day.



Clay skills:

Shaping, forming, modelling and constructing, planning through drawing.