

# **UKS2 Topic: Early Islamic Civilisation**

Block D: The rise and fall of Baghdad

Session 1

Resource pack

## Baghdad - The Round City: teacher notes

### What was special about the location Baghdad was sited?

Many years after civilisation began in Mesopotamia\*, a city was built. The construction of Baghdad began in CE 762 when Caliph Al-Mansur laid the first brick. Caliph Al-Mansur selected the location for building the city as it was close to the Tigris River and was a crossing point for many trade routes. The proximity to the Tigris River also created fertile land around the city which was required for farming.

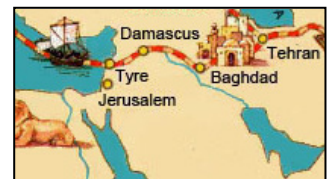
\*In Asia, there are two important rivers: the Tigris and the Euphrates. In the past, like the Nile, these rivers would flood, giving the gift of rich soil. The good soil and the water supply meant that the people who lived beside or between the rivers could farm, grow plenty of food and build their homes. This warm and pleasant region was called *Mesopotamia*, meaning 'the place between two rivers'. The region is also known as the 'cradle of civilisation' because many early societies developed here, including the *Sumer*, *Akkadian*, *Babylonian*, *Parthian* and *Assyrian* peoples. This area roughly corresponds to modern-day Iraq, Syria and Kuwait.



## Baghdad research

Use this sheet to record any information you find about the four main themes below, ready to share with the class.

**What was special about Baghdad's location?**



**How was the city designed?**



**What was the House of Wisdom?**



**What was daily life like for 'ordinary' people?**

