

Y5 Spr1 History: What makes a successful empire?



10 important things about the Abbasid Caliphate

1. The caliphate stretched from North Africa to Afghanistan at its height.
2. It was an Islamic empire from 750 to 1258 with the 'Golden Age' between 775 and 861.
3. Caliph al-Mansour founded the Round City or the City of Peace on the banks of the Tigris River at Baghdad.
4. The Round City had fortified circular walls and a moat with four gates leading to key cities.
5. At the centre of the city was the Grand Mosque and the caliph's palace with a great green dome.
6. Caliph al-Ma'mun founded the House of Wisdom, a place of scholarship and learning.
7. The House of Wisdom collected texts from across the known world and was one of the greatest depositories of information by the mid-ninth century.
8. This period is known as the golden age of Islam because of all the discoveries and inventions that were developed.
9. Trade was central to the development of the caliphate.
10. The government maintained caravanserais and managed markets to promote travel and trade using taxes to provide resources.

Vocabulary and key terms

Caliph	The Muslim leader of a caliphate.
Caliphate	A political-religious form of government of
Trade	Swapping of goods for other goods or
Import	Goods that a country receives from another
Export	Goods that a country sends to another
Culture	Ideas, arts and social features of a country
Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to
Colony	A territory under the control of another
Empire	A group of territories or peoples under
Dynasty	A succession of rulers of a country or a civilisation.
Calligraphy	Decorative handwritten lettering.
Scholar	A person dedicated to learning, often at a
Islam	The religion practiced by the Muslims in the Caliphate.

