The Islamic Civilization
And
The house of Wisdom “Bayt Al-Hikma”

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Year 3 - Section 4
2014 – 2015
Islamic Civilization
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Location: First it was at Mecca (after prophet Muhammad’s captures it in 630).

The Islamic armies conquered:

1. Middle East  4. Persia in 642
3. Egypt        6. Spain in 711
7. India and parts of central Asia
Caliphs set up their capital in Damascus

Under the Abbasid caliphs, the growth of luxury and the cessation of wars of conquest lead to the development of a new culture.
In 766 the caliph al-Mansur founded his new capital of Baghdad.

The caliph Harun al-Rashid (ruled from 786 to 809) established a library in Baghdad.
Manuscripts were collected from ancient Athens and Alexandria.

These manuscripts included Greek mathematical and scientific texts.
Harun successor and the caliph Al-Mamum (813–833), established a research institute to apply a program of translation into Arabic.

The Bayt al-Hikma (House of Wisdom), which was to last over 200 years.
The House of Wisdom

"Bayt Al-Hikma"
Name: Bayt Al-Hikma, Manzel Al-Hikma and Dar Al-Hikma

- The term “bayt” refers to one roofed space which has a corridor (Dihleez).

- The term “Manzel” refers to while Manzil denotes a complex containing more than one Bayt, a covered court (Sahn Musaqqaf) and a kitchen (used by a man and his family).
The term “Dar” refers to a bigger complex containing more than one Bayt and more than one Manzil and a courtyard opened to the sky.

* Each subject have a separate corridor (Riwaq).
“Bayt Al-Hikma” contains:

1. Translators
2. Scientist
3. Scribes
4. Authors
5. Writers
6. Copyist

The languages that are spoken, read and written in “Bayt Al-Hikma”:

1. Arabic
2. Farsi
3. Hebrew
4. Aramaic
5. Syriac
6. Greek
7. Latin
8. Indian
The major contribution of “Bayt Al-Hikma” is translating books into Arabic.

The most prominent translators

1. Youhanna bin Al-Batriq Al-Turjuman
   - Book of Animals (Kitab Al-Haywan) by Aristotle

2. Hunayn bin Ishaq (Isaac) Al‘Ibadi (Head of the Translation Department (Diwan Al-Tarjama)).
   - Works by the Greek physician Hippocrates.
   - translated many books from Farsi, Greek and Syriac.
3. **The renowned scholar Abu Yousuf Ya'qoub Al-Kindi**

- Physician, philosopher, mathematician, geometer, logician, and astronomer.
- Translate the works of Aristotle.
- He had his own personal library at home, which was referred to as “Al-Kindiya”.

4. **Muhammad bin Musa Al-Khawarizmi**

5. **Thabit bin Qurra**
The end of “Bayt Al-Hikma” era:

On 12 February 1258 CE, Mongol invasion of Baghdad led by Hulegu has attacked “Bayt Al-Hikma”, who killed the last Abbasid Caliph Al-Musta'sim; in order to spare the destruction of the City of Baghdad and its cultural heritage.
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