

Chapter 2

SPREAD OF ISLAM IN EUROPE AND ASIA

(Umayyads and Abbasids)

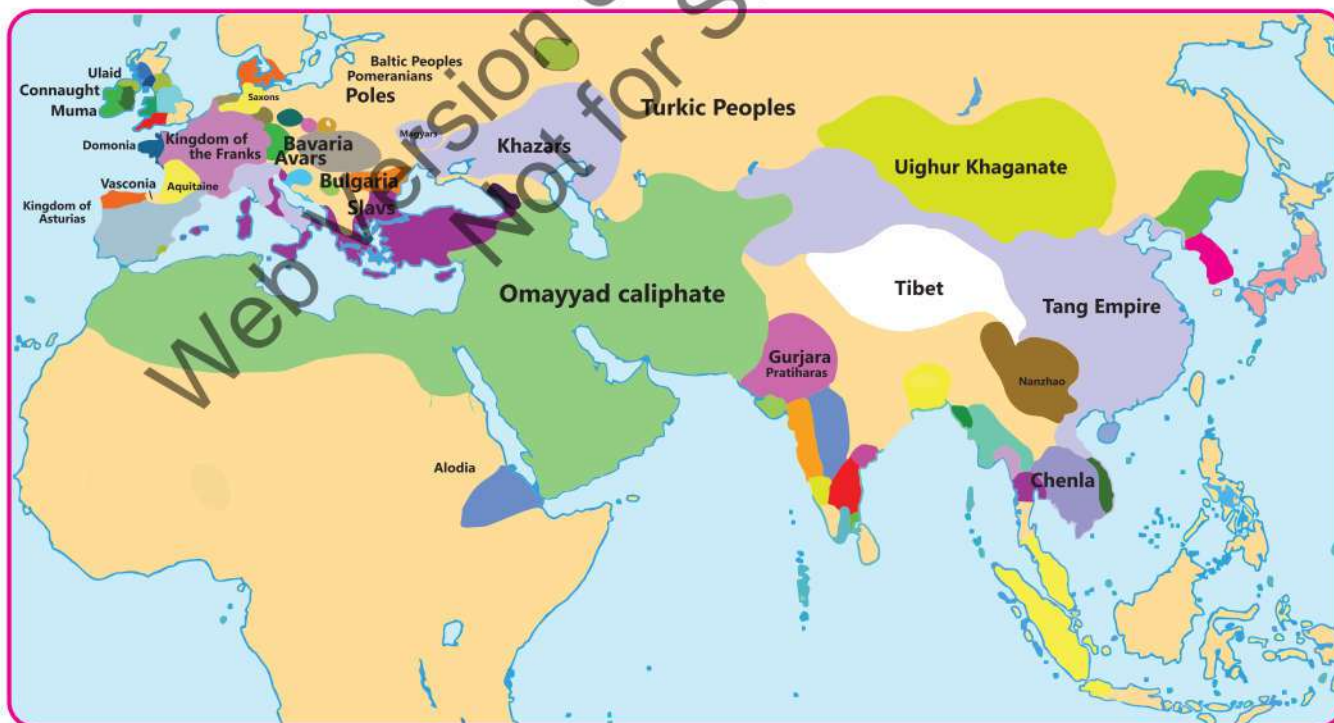
Students' Learning Outcomes:

After studying this chapter, students will be able to:

- Briefly explain Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties.
- Discover the importance of Muhammad Bin Qasim in the spread of Islam in the subcontinent.
- Investigate the significant advancements of Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties.
- Outline the arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim in the subcontinent.

Umayyad Dynasty (661-750 CE)

- The Umayyad Caliphate ruled the Islamic Empire from 661 CE to 750 CE. It succeeded the Rashideen Caliphate when Muawiyah-I became Caliph. He established Umayyads Dynasty. They ruled for about 90 years. Damascus was their capital. The Umayyad Caliphate was brought to an end in 750 CE when the Abbasids took control. The borders of the Umayyad Caliphate spread nearly 9,650 km (6,000 miles) from the Indus River in Asia to the Iberian Peninsula (modern day Spain).



Map of Umayyad Dynasty

- The Umayyad Dynasty was one of the most powerful and vast of Islamic Caliphates. It was also the first of the Islamic dynasties. This meant that the leader of the Caliphate, called the Caliph, was naturally the son (or other male relative) of the previous Caliph.
- The Umayyads modeled their Government after the Byzantines (Eastern Roman Empire) who had previously ruled much of the land conquered by the Umayyads. They divided the empire into provinces. A province was ruled by a Governor appointed by the Caliph. They also created Government bodies called "diwans" that handled different Government agencies.

Contributions of Some Important Caliphs of Umayyad Dynasty

Reign of Muawiyah-I

Muawiyah-I (602-680 CE), was a Muslim leader and founder of the Umayyad Dynasty of Caliphs. He is considered one of the brilliant Arabs Generals. He restored unity to the Muslim empire and made Damascus its capital. He reigned from 661 CE to 680 CE.

- Muawiyah-I instituted several Byzantine-style bureaucracies, called diwans, to aid him in the governance and the centralization of the Caliphate and the Empire. Early Arabic sources credit to two diwans in particular to Muawiyah: the diwan-al-khatam or chancellery and the bareed, or postal service, both of which greatly improved communications within the empire.
- Muawiyah-I greatly beautified Damascus and developed a court to rival that of the Byzantines. He expanded the frontiers of the empire, reaching the very gates of Constantinople at one point, though failing to hold any territory in Asia Minor. He is credited with saving the fledgling Muslim nation from post civil war anarchy. Muawiyah-I died in 680 CE. He was succeeded by his son Yazid-I.

Reign of Yazid-I

- Yazid Ibn Muawiyah (646-683 CE), commonly known as Yazid-I, was the second Caliph of Umayyad Caliphate. He ruled from April 680 CE until his death in November 683 CE. His appointment was the first hereditary succession to the caliphate in Islamic history. His caliphate was marked by

the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain Ibn Ali رضي الله تعالى عنه in the Battle of Karbala. Hazrat Imam Hussain's رضي الله تعالى عنه martyrdom caused resentment in Hejaz and Iraq and started of the crisis.



Letter Box of Umayyad Dynasty

Timeline of Umayyad's Rule	
661-680 CE	Reign of Muawiyah-I: Founder of the Umayyad Dynasty
680-683 CE	Reign of Yazid-I
683-684 CE	Reign of Muawiyah-II
684-685 CE	Reign of Marwan-I
685-705 CE	Reign of Abd-al-Malik
705-715 CE	Reign of Al-Walid-I
715-717 CE	Reign of Sulaiman
717-720 CE	Reign of Umar-II
720-724 CE	Reign of Yazid-II
724-743 CE	Reign of Hisham
743-744 CE	Reign of Al-Walid-II
744 CE	Reign of Al-Yazid-III
744 CE	Reign of Ibrahim
744-750 CE	Reign of Marwan-II

- Yazid-I continued Muawiyah's decentralized model of governance, relying on his Provincial Governors and the tribal nobility. He abandoned Muawiyah's ambitious raids against the Byzantine Empire and strengthened Syria's military defences. No new territories were conquered during his reign.

Reign of Marwan-I

- Marwan Ibn al-Hakam (623-685 CE) was an Umayyad Caliph who took over the dynasty after Muawiyah-II. Marwan's short reign was marked by a civil war among the Umayyads as well as a war against Abdullah Bin Zubair who continued to rule over the Hejaz, Iraq, Egypt and parts of Syria.

Reign of Abd-al-Malik

- Abd-al-Malik Ibn Marwan (647-705 CE) was the fifth Umayyad Caliph, ruling from 685 CE until his death. He largely maintained his father's policies. He oversaw the Umayyad



Gold Coins issued by Abd-al-Malik

Caliphate's territorial and economic zenith.

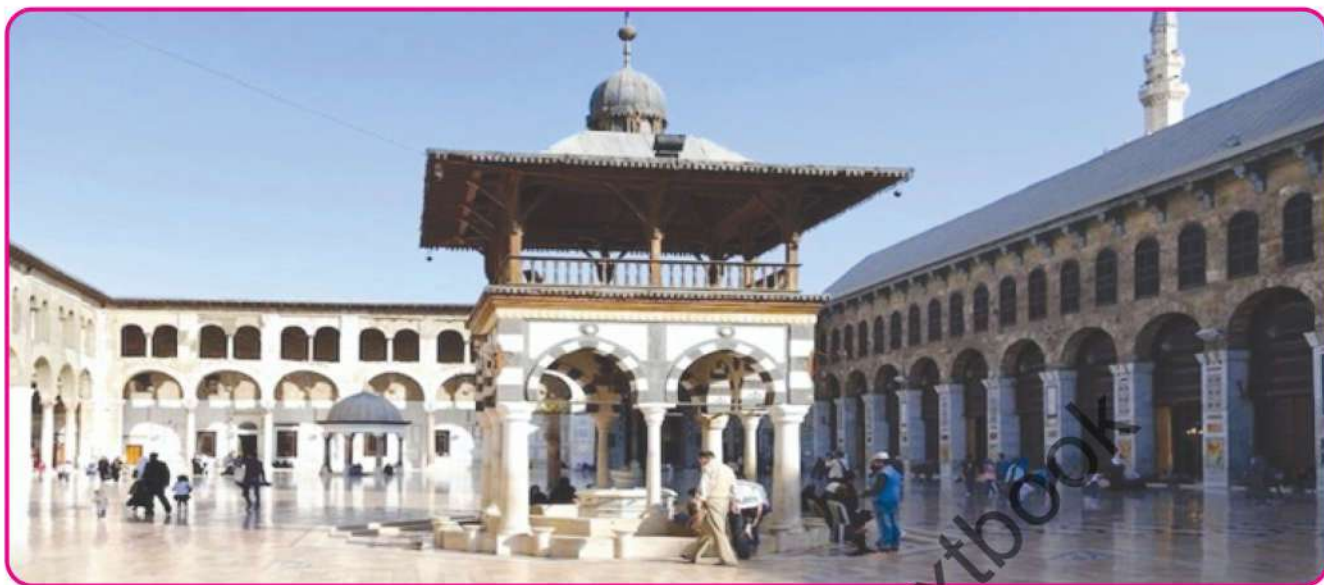
- Tax surpluses from the provinces were forwarded to Damascus. He introduced a single Islamic currency in place of Byzantine and Sasanian coinage. He established Arabic as the language of the bureaucracy in place of Greek and Persian in Syria and Iraq, respectively. Another manifestation of this initiative was his founding of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.



The Dome of the Rock (Jerusalem), Umayyad, Stone masonry, wooden roof, decorated with glazed ceramic tiles, mosaics and gilt aluminium and bronze dome, 691-692 CE, with multiple renovations by Caliph Abd-al-Malik.

Reign of Al-Walid-I

- Al-Walid Ibn Abd-al-Malik (668-715 CE) ruled from 705-715 CE. He continued the expansion of the Islamic Empire that was sparked by his father and was an effective ruler. Al-Walid-I was the eldest son of Abd-al-Malik and succeeded him to the caliphate upon his death. He allowed Hajjaj Bin Yousaf to conquer Sindh.
- Al-Walid-I developed a welfare system, built hospitals, educational institutions and measures for the appreciation of art. He himself was a great fan of architecture. He restored and refurnished Masjid-e-Nabawi in Medina. Al-Walid-I also greatly expanded the military, building a strong navy.
- He was also known for his piety. Many stories tell of his continual reciting of the Holy Quran and the large feasts he would host for fasting persons during Ramadan. Al-Walid-I was succeeded by his brother Sulaiman.



The Great Masjid of Damascus, built by the Umayyad Caliph, Al-Walid-I between 708 CE and 715 CE.

Reign of Sulaiman

- Sulaiman Bin Abd-al-Malik (674-717 CE) was an Umayyad Caliph who ruled from 715 CE to 717 CE. His father was Abd-al-Malik and he was a younger brother of the previous caliph, Al-Walid-I.
- Sulaiman was political opponents of Hajjaj Bin Yousaf. However, Hajjaj died in 714 CE, so Sulaiman persecuted his political allies. Among these were the three famous Generals Qutaibah Bin Muslim, Musa Bin Nusair, and Muhammad Bin Qasim.
- Under his rule, expansion continued into mountainous parts of Iran such as Tabiristan. Sulaiman also ordered an expedition to Constantinople, but it was unsuccessful. In the domestic scene, he had built well in Makkah for pilgrims, and organized enforcement of prayers. Sulaiman was known for his exceptional oratory skills.
- He only ruled for two years. He broke with tradition by not maintaining a hereditary dynasty. He ignored his brothers and son, and appointed Umar Ibn Abd-al-Aziz as his successor on account of Umar's reputation as being one of the most wise, capable and pious persons of that era.



Gold Dinar minted under Sulaiman's rule (Damascus) in 715 CE or 716 CE

Reign of Umar-II

- Umar Ibn Abd-al-Aziz (680-720 CE) was an Umayyad Caliph who ruled from 717 CE to 720 CE. His father was Abd-al-Aziz, the Governor of Egypt. Umar was extremely pious and

disdainful of worldly luxuries. He preferred simplicity that had become a hallmark of the Umayyad life style.

- In an effort to bring the empire into greater conformity with the standards set by Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ. Umar-II made a number of important religious reforms. He continued the welfare programmes of the last few Umayyad emperors, expanding them and including special programmes for orphans and the destitute. He also abolished the Jizya tax applied on non-Muslims who lived inside the Muslim state.
- His armies successfully resisted an attack from the Turks in Azerbaijan, and he put down a number of Kharijite rebellions. Umar is considered as one of the finest rulers in Islamic history. He was succeeded by his cousin Yazid-II.

Skills:

- Use a timeline to identify the time of Umayyad, and Abbasid's rule in Spain.
- Use a diagram to explain the similarities, and differences between Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties.
- Read relevant books, search from Internet and gather information about the spread of Islam in the world.
- Find the location of Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties in the modern world using a world map.



Advancements

- The Umayyads also oversaw rapid advancements of territory, extending from India in the east and Spain in the west. It spread over a vast area. The Umayyad Caliphate expanded the Islamic Empire into one of the largest empires in the history of the world. At its peak, the Umayyad Caliphate controlled the Middle East, parts of India, much of north Africa, and Spain. Historians believe that the Umayyad Caliphate had a population of around 62 million people, which was nearly 30% of the world's population at the time.

Do You Know?

- From the 7th through the 18th centuries CE, Islam spread across the globe. Muslim rulers extended their control throughout north Africa, west Africa, and Central Asia. During this time, Muslim rulers, soldiers, traders, Sufis, scholars, poets and architects all contributed to the shaping of unique Islamic culture.

Contributions

The Umayyads made several important contributions to the Islamic Empire. Many of their contributions had to do with unifying the large empire along with creating a common coinage, establishing Arabic as the official language throughout the empire, and standardizing weights and measures. They developed a new style of architecture known as Saracenic Architecture. The arches, the pillars, the minarets and domes came to India later. They also built some of the most revered buildings of Islamic history including the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Umayyad Masjid in Damascus.

Skills:

- Enquire the revolutionary changes that took place in Arabia in the 7th century CE.
- Discover the importance of Muhammad Bin Qasim in spreading Islam in the subcontinent.
- Investigate the significant advancements of Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties.



Abdul Rahman

One of the Umayyad leaders, Abdul Rahman, escaped to Spain where he established his own kingdom in the city of Cordoba. There the Umayyads continued to rule portions of Spain until the 14th century CE.

Importance of Muhammad Bin Qasim in spreading Islam in the Subcontinent

Muhammad Bin Qasim played an important role in spreading Islam in the subcontinent. Many non-Muslims embraced Islam due to him.

The rule of the Muslims started with the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad Bin Qasim in 712 CE. The immediate cause of Muhammad Bin Qasim's arrival in Sindh was the looting of Arab ships by pirates of Sindh. When this news reached Hajaj Bin Yousaf, he sent his nephew Muhammad Bin Qasim to conquer Sindh. The army under his command defeated 'Dahir' who was the Raja of Sindh at that time and captured the area upto Multan.

Conquest of Sindh in 712 CE is considered to speed up the process of Islam. Muhammad Bin Qasim set up many Masjids and Islamic schools in Sindh and Multan.



Muhammad Bin Qasim

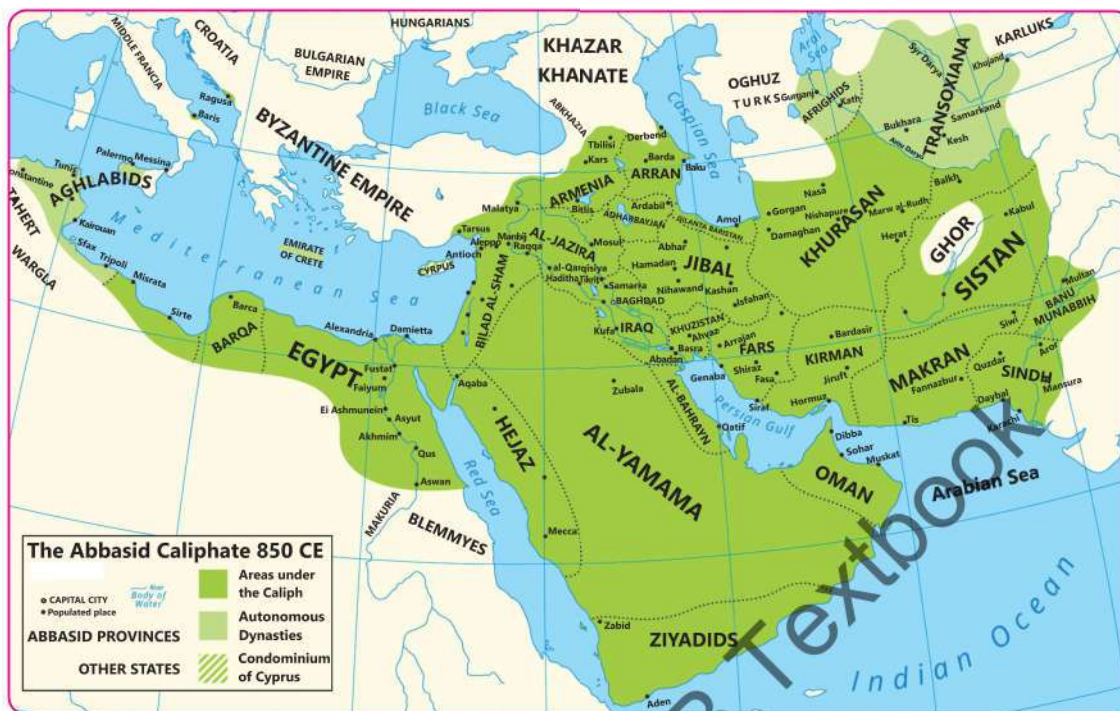


Muhammad Bin Qasim Masjid, Sindh

Many Buddhists and lower-caste Hindus converted to Islam who lived a miserable and socially segregated life in Sindh and Multan. It is noted that Arabs did not force the locals to embrace Islam. They were rather impressed by the equality, caste-less system and social justice of Muslims. That's why today scholars call Sindh the gateway of Islam to other parts of India.

Abbasid Dynasty (750-1258 CE and 1261-1517 CE)

- The Abbasid Caliphate had two major periods. The first period lasted from 750-1258 CE. During this period, the Abbasids were strong leaders who controlled a vast territory and created a culture that is often referred as the Golden Age. The first capital city of the Abbasids was Kufa. However, they founded and built the city of Baghdad as their new capital in 762 CE.
- In 1258 CE, the capital city of Baghdad was sacked by the Mongol Ruler Hulagu Khan causing the Abbasids to flee to Egypt. The second period lasted from 1261-1517 CE. During this time, the Abbasid Caliphate was located in Cairo, Egypt. While the Abbasids were still considered the religious leaders of the Islamic world, a different group called the Mamluks held the true political and military power.



Map of Abbasid Dynasty

Contributions of Some Important Caliphs of Abbasid Dynasty

Abu Al-Abbas Abdullah Ibn Muhammad as-Saffah

Abu Al-Abbas Abdullah Ibn Muhammad as-Saffah was the first Abbasid Caliph. His rule remained from 750 CE to 754 CE. He made efforts to consolidate and rebuild the caliphate. His supporters were represented in the new Government. Education was encouraged and the first paper mills were set up in Samarkand. Army was made powerful with the concern that there would be a return of Umayyad power. Abu al-Abbas sought out all the remaining members of the Umayyad family to have them executed. Abu al-Abbas died in 754 CE, after ruling four years. He was succeeded by his brother, Al-Mansur.

Al-Mansur

- Al-Mansur (714-775 CE) was the second Abbasid Caliph who founded Baghdad in 762 CE. He reigned from 754 CE to 775 CE. Al-Mansur was concerned with the solidity of his regime after the death of his brother.
- During his reign, literature and scholarly work in the Islamic world began to emerge in full force. Al-Mansur died in 775 CE on his way to Makkah to perform Hajj.

Al-Mahdi

- Al-Mahdi (775-785 CE), was the third Abbasid Caliph. He succeeded his father, Al-Mansur. His peaceful reign continued with the policies of his predecessors.

- The cosmopolitan city of Baghdad blossomed during Al-Mahdi's reign. Al-Mahdi continued to expand the Abbasid administration, creating new diwans, or departments.

Timeline of Abbasid's Rule	
750 CE	Fall of the Umayyad Caliphate and Started of the Abbasid Caliphate
750 CE	Death of Imam Ibrahim, the leader of the Abbasids. He was succeeded by his brother Abu-al-Abbas
750-754 CE	Reign of Abu Abbas As-Saffah
754-775 CE	Reign of Al-Mansur
756-788 CE	Reign of Abdul Rahman-I over the Emirate of Cordoba in Spain
775-785 CE	Reign of Al-Mahdi of the Abbasid Caliphate
785-786 CE	The reign of Al-Hadi
786-809 CE	The reign of Haroon Al Rashid
809-813 CE	Reign of Al-Amin
813-833 CE	Reign of Al-Ma'mun
833-842 CE	Reign of Al-Murtasim
842-847 CE	Reign of Al-Wathik
847-861 CE	Reign of Al-Mutawakkil
861-862 CE	Reign of Al-Muntasir
862-866 CE	Reign of Al-Mustain.
866-869 CE	Reign of Al-Mutazz
869-870 CE	Reign of Al-Muhtadi
870-892 CE	Reign of Al-Mutamid
892-902 CE	Reign of Al-Mutadid
902-1258 CE	Reign of Al-Muktafi, Reign of al-Muqtadir, Reign of al-Qahir and many others
1258 CE	The Mongols conquered the Abbasid Caliphate

Haroon-al-Rashid

- Haroon-al-Rashid (763-809 CE) was most famous Abbasid Caliph. He ruled from 786 CE to 809 CE. Haroon became caliph when he was in early 20s.
- Haroon built a palace in Baghdad, far grander and more beautiful than that of any caliph before him. He established his court there. He also established the legendary library 'Bayt-al-Hikma (House of Wisdom)' in Baghdad. He was very anxious that his people should be treated justly by the officers of the Government. So, he sometimes disguised himself at night and went about through the streets and bazaars to understand the problems of masses.



Gold Dinar of Haroon-al-Rashid

Do You Know?

- Haroon-al-Rashid's son al-Ma'mun led a large army into Egypt to put down the revolt. While there he ordered the breaching of the Great Pyramid of Giza looking for knowledge and treasure.

Al-Mu'tasim

- Al-Mu'tasim (796-842 CE) was the eighth Abbasid Caliph. He ruled from 833 CE to 842 CE. While his Generals led the fight against internal rebellions, Al-Mu'tasim himself led the sole major external campaign of the period in 838 CE against the Byzantine Empire. His armies defeated Emperor Theophilos and sacked the city of Amorium.
- The great Arab mathematician Al-Kindi (801-873 CE) was employed by Al-Mu'tasim, and tutored the Caliph's son. Al-Kindi had served at the Bayt-al-Hikma. Al-Mu'tasim died in 842 CE and was succeeded by his son, Al-Wathiq.



Al-Kindi

Advancements

- The Abbasids vanquished the Umayyad Dynasty in 750 CE, supporting the mawali, or non-Arab Muslims, by moving the capital to Baghdad in 762 CE. The Abbasid Caliphate ruled over a large empire that included the Middle East, western Asia and north east Africa including Egypt.

Golden Age of Islam

- The early part of the Abbasid rule was a time of peace and prosperity. Great advances were made in many areas of science, mathematics and medicine. New coins were introduced.

Schools for higher education and libraries were built throughout the Empire. The culture flourished as Arabic art and architecture reached new heights.

- During the Golden Age of Islam, Arab and Persian and other countries scholars were able to build on the information they translated from the Greeks and others. Abbasid period lasted from around 750 CE to 1258 CE. It is often referred to as the Golden Age of Islam.



Bayt-al-Hikma, Baghdad

Do You Know?

- Ibn-al-Haytham (965-040 CE), was a legendary mathematician and astronomer of the Islamic Golden Age. His most influential work is titled 'Kitab-al-Manazir (Book of Optics).' He is known as the father of modern optics.

Fall of the Abbasids

- The early 12th century CE saw the rise of the Mongol Empire in eastern Asia. The Mongols conquered China and then began their march towards the Middle East. In 1258 CE, the Mongols conquered the capital city of Baghdad and the Caliph was murdered.

MAIN POINTS

1. The Umayyad Caliphate ruled the Islamic Empire from 661-750 CE.
2. Muawiyah-I (602-680 CE), was a Muslim leader and founder of the Umayyad Dynasty of Caliphs.
3. Al-Walid-I (668-715 CE) restored and refurnished Masjid-e-Nabawi in Medina.
4. Umar Ibn Abd-al-Aziz (680-720 CE) was a legendary Umayyad Caliph who ruled from 717 CE to 720 CE.
5. The Umayyads built the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Umayyad Masjid in Damascus, Syria.
6. Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Sindh in 712 CE and he played an important role in spreading Islam in the subcontinent.
7. The Abbasid Caliphate had two major periods. The first period lasted from 750-1258 CE and the second period lasted from 1261-1517 CE.
8. Abu Al-Abbas Abdullah Ibn Muhammad as-Saffah (721-754 CE) was the first Abbasid Caliph.
9. Abu Al-Abbas Abdullah Ibn Muhammad as-Saffah was the founder of the Abbasid Dynasty who ruled from 750 CE to 754 CE.
10. Al-Mansur was the second Abbasid Caliph who founded Baghdad in 762 CE.
11. Haroon-al-Rashid (763-908 CE) was most famous Abbasid Caliph who ruled from 786 CE to 809 CE. He established the legendary library 'Bayt-al-Hikma (House of Wisdom)' in Baghdad.
12. Golden Age of Islam remained from around 750 CE to 1258 CE.
13. Abbasids made great advances in many areas of science, mathematics, medicine, astronomy and architecture, etc.

EXERCISE

Q.1: Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- i. Muhammad Bin Qasim conquered Sindh in:
(a) 709 CE (b) 710 CE
(c) 711 CE (d) 712 CE
- ii. Haroon-al-Rashid was most famous Abbasid Caliph who ruled from 786 CE to:
(a) 796 CE (b) 800 CE
(c) 805 CE (d) 809 CE
- iii. Umar Ibn Abd-al-Aziz's rule started in:
(a) 715 CE (b) 716 CE
(c) 717 CE (d) 718 CE

- iv. The early 12th century CE saw the rise of the Mongol Empire in eastern:
- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| (a) Europe | (b) Asia |
| (c) Africa | (d) America |
- v. City of Baghdad was founded by:
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| (a) Al-Mansur | (b) Al-Mahdi |
| (c) Al-Mu'tasim | (d) Al-Ma'mun |

Q. 2: Give short answers of the following:

- i. Who was Muawiyah-I ?
- ii. When did Abbasids reclaim the caliphate from Cairo, Egypt?
- iii. Who was Marwan-I?
- iv. When did the Abbasids vanquish the Umayyad Dynasty?
- v. When did Muhammad Bin Qasim arrive in subcontinent?

Q. 3: Write the answers of the following in detail:

- i. Describe the significant advancements of Umayyads.
- ii. Discuss the advancements of Abbasids Dynasty.
- iii. Describe the arrival of Muhammad Bin Qasim in the Subcontinent.
- iv. Compare the advancement of Abbasid and Umayyad Dynasties.
- v. Write a note on any two caliphs of Umayyad Dynasty.
- vi. Write a note on the contributions of any two caliphs of Abbasid Dynasty.

Learning Activities

The Teacher will:

- Use a timeline to identify the time of Umayyad Dynasty.
- Use a timeline to identify the time of Abbasid Dynasty.
- Use a map to find the location of Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties in the modern world.
- Use Internet, Books, Magazines, etc. to explore and gather information about Muhammad Bin Qasim, Al-Kindi and Ibn-al-Haytham.



Critical Thinking:

Critical thinking Questions about Umayyad and Abbasid Dynasties:

1. How did the Umayyads impact the Islamic Dynasty?
2. In what ways did the Abbasid Dynasty differ from the Umayyad Dynasty?
3. Why did the Abbasids overthrow the Umayyads?
4. What were five achievements of the Islamic Golden Age?
5. What are the major impacts of Muhammad Bin Qasim's expedition?
6. Why did the Abbasid Dynasty fall?

Classroom Project



- Collect information (life period, pictures, important work and inventions, etc.) about the famous Muslim scientists of the Golden Age of Islam. Make a chart and display in the classroom.

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