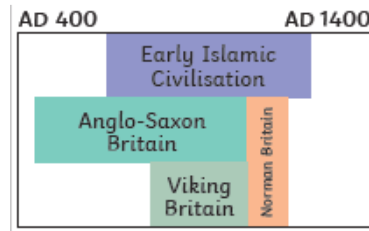




How different was Baghdad to London around 900AD?

Word	Definition
Caliph	The chief Muslim civil and religious leader.
exceptional	Extraordinary or unusual.
perspective	The way someone sees Something.
dominate	Have power and influence over something.
simultaneous	At the same time.
plausible	A probably or reasonable statement.
contrast	Something different from something else
irrigation	The supply of water to land or crops to help growth.
citizen	Someone who lives in a particular town or city.
establish	Set up something.



Key Knowledge and Concepts

900 AD was during the Anglo Saxon times in Britain. Baghdad was the world’s largest city in 900AD. The Islamic Empire stretched from Spain to India.



Baghdad was situated between two rivers which enabled it to be the centre of the world’s great trade routes. The city was completely round with the important things in the middle. In Baghdad, they built the first hospitals, universities, observatories and mechanical devices to tell you about the sunrise.

The House of Wisdom

Bayt al Hikma, the ‘House of Wisdom’ was founded by Cliph Harun-al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited scholars of different faiths to his court. The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility which collected and translated writing from many cultures. By 900AD, it stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant minds to study there.

Baghdad and the Islamic Empire

Baghdad population: over 1 million

Millions of books and many thousands of readers

Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of ‘zero’.

General peace across a huge Islamic Empire.

London and Europe

London population: Approximately 20 000

Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.

Basic mathematics, with Roman Numerals and no concept of ‘zero’.

Many wars across Christian kingdoms.