



# Welcome to your Discovery Box

Here you will find an array of exciting activities and fun facts to prepare you for your next unit of study.

*Inside this Discovery Box you will find:*

- fun facts and information
- craft activities
- puzzles and games.

We hope you find these activities engaging and entertaining, but most of all that they make you **curious** to learn more.

## Fun facts about Baghdad

1. The city of Baghdad is in the Middle East in what is now Iraq.
2. In 762<sup>CE</sup> Caliph Al-Mansur decided to create a circular city next to the River Tigris. The city was called the Round City or City of Mansur.
3. In 900<sup>CE</sup> Baghdad was a fine city with impressive palaces and beautiful gardens, as well as wonderful mosques and wide streets bustling with markets.
4. Knowledge and learning were important to the people of Baghdad. Because the city became so wealthy and the Islamic religion praised the value of learning, many new places of learning were created.
5. The House of Wisdom was a type of library where many of the writings of experts from Ancient Greece and Rome were translated. The work of Greek experts such as the scientist Archimedes, mathematician Euclid, and philosopher Aristotle was translated so everyone could read them.
6. Many scholars made significant advancements in science, mathematics, astronomy, technology, and medicine. Today we use words like 'algebra' and 'zero' that began in the great Islamic Empire.



## Can you solve this word search?



ABBASIDS

BAGHDAD

CALIPH

DYNASTY

GARDEN

HOUSE OF WISDOM

IRAQ

ISLAM

MIDDLE EAST

PROPHET

RIVER EUPHRATES

RIVER TIGRIS

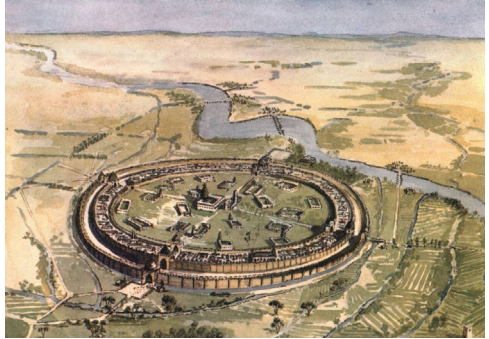
ROUND CITY

SCIENCE

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## Design your own city

Here is an image of the Round City of Baghdad. The Round City was surrounded by two huge circular walls. There was also a deep waterfilled moat around the outside wall to stop attackers. The only way in was through one of four iron gates. The gates needed several guards to close them because they were so heavy! The city was built near the River Tigris so that farmers could use the water for crops.



The city was built near the River Tigris so that farmers could use the water for crops.

### Design and describe your own city.

- What shape would it be?
- What would you include to protect the city?
- What would you need to keep your city going?
- Where would be a good place to put your city?

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Name of your city: \_\_\_\_\_



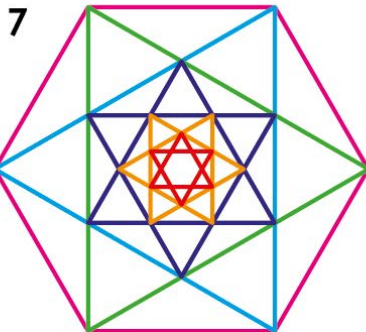
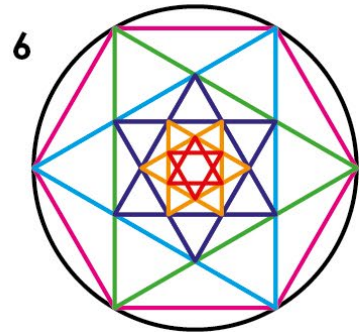
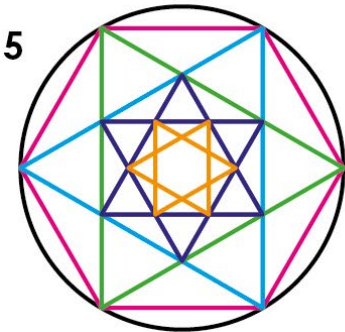
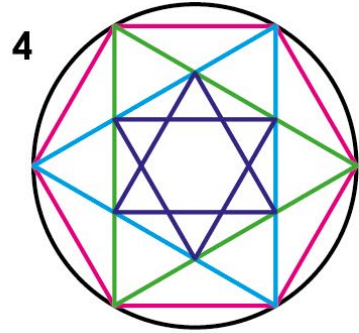
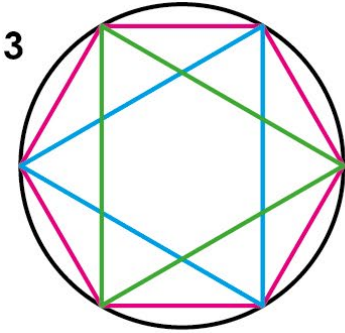
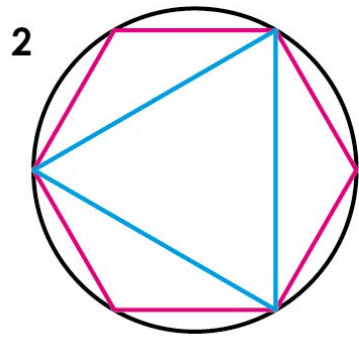
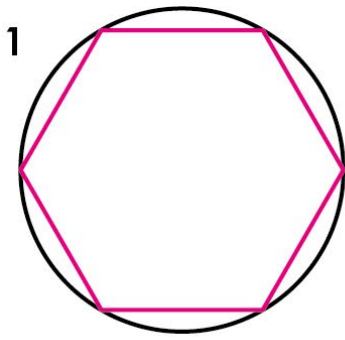
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## Create a tile

Arabesque art is based on mathematics, space, shape, and pattern, using geometric forms to create intricate designs. These designs would often be symmetrical.

Follow these instructions and diagrams to create a tile like an Islamic artist.

1. Make the largest circle possible on a single sheet of paper. You can use a set of compasses if you have one.
2. Place a point anywhere on the circle and use your pencil to mark the length to another spot on the circle. Move the point to that spot and mark another length. Continue this around the circle until you come back to the start. Six points should be marked.
3. Connect each point with the one next to it to form a regular hexagon. Use a ruler to get straight lines. (Image 1)
4. Now connect every other point. That means start on one and then miss one. What have you drawn? (Image 2)
5. Connect every other point that you have left so that you create another triangle. The two triangles create a six-pointed star. (Image 3)
6. If you look closely you can see that inside the star there is another hexagon. Make another six-pointed star and see that inside of it is another hexagon. (Image 4)
7. Draw as many stars inside your hexagon as you want or as space allows. (Images 5 and 6)
8. Erase the outside circle. (Image 7)
9. You now have your first Islamic tile design. You can add colour to your designs but keep it symmetrical.



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## Create your own poem

Because the Round City of Baghdad was next to the River Tigris, it had access to water from this river and from the River Euphrates which joined the Tigris. This meant that the people of Baghdad were able to create beautiful gardens in the desert! They planted rare fruit trees and various plants that created a wonderful fragrance.



Write a poem describing one of the beautiful gardens in Baghdad. Try to include some of these words:

desert	rare	fragrance	exotic	vibrant
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