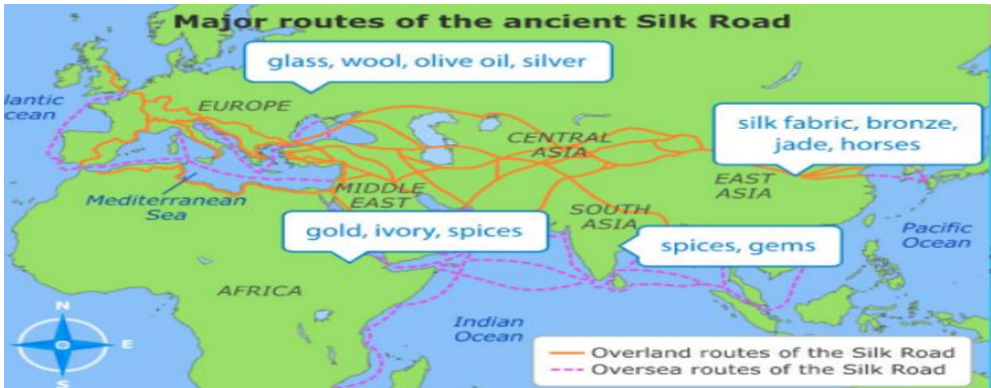


Ancient Islamic Civilisation—Autumn Year 6

Silk Road

The **Silk Road** is a vast trade network connecting Southern Europe, East Asia and East Africa via land and sea routes. It earned its name from Chinese Silk, a highly valued material that merchants transported along these trade networks. Advances in technology and periods of peace caused an increase in trade allowing travellers to exchange many goods around the world — animals, spices, wool, gold and ideas.



The map above shows the major routes that traders took along the ancient Silk Road.

Key Vocabulary

Baghdad - Baghdad is today the capital of Iraq and was the capital of the Muslim world.

House of Wisdom - This was a library or university where scholars from all over the world were invited to study.

Mosque - The place where Muslims worship.

Scholar - A highly educated person.

Ramadan - The most sacred month in the Islamic culture. Muslims do not eat or drink between dawn and dusk.

Prophet Mohammad - Muslims believe that Islam is a faith that has always existed and that it was gradually revealed to them by Muhammad.

Manuscript - A book, document or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed.

Ailment - An illness, typically a minor one.

Madrasa - A school built in, or alongside, a mosque.

Crusades - The Crusades were a series of wars when Christians invaded the Muslim lands.



The Round City of Baghdad

The Round City of Baghdad is the original core of Baghdad built by the Abbasid Caliph al-Mansur in 762–766 CE. Its official name in Abbasid times was the City of Peace. The famous library known as the House of Wisdom was located in its grounds.



House of Wisdom

The **House of Wisdom** was built primarily as a library. The house became the home of ancient and modern wisdom and learning during the Islamic Golden Age, preserving important works of scholarship from across Europe and the Middle East.

