

CHAPTER
10
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

MUSLIM CIVILIZATION'S GOLDEN AGE

Focus Question: What achievements did Muslims make in economics, art, literature, and science?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to categorize the advances made during the golden age of Muslim civilization.

Muslim Achievements	
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____
Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____
Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____
Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____

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Section Summary

MUSLIM CIVILIZATION'S GOLDEN AGE

Muslim civilization enjoyed a golden age under the Abbasids. Their empire stretched into Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. Merchants crossed the Sahara, traveled the Silk Road to China, and sailed to India and Asia. New products and ideas were exchanged, and the religion of Islam was introduced to many regions. All this fueled the Muslim economy, leading to the development of partnerships, the use of credit, and a banking system. Artisans created manufactured goods for trade, and the government helped improve farming through large irrigation systems.

Muslim society allowed some **social mobility**, the ability to move up in social class through religious, scholarly, or military achievements. Most slaves were household servants and some were able to purchase their freedom. The children of some slaves could become free under another system.

The diverse cultures in the empire, as well as Islam, influenced art and literature. Early oral poetry told tales of nomadic life, while later poets developed elaborate rules for poems. Great Muslim poets include **Firdawsi**, who told the history of Persia, and **Omar Khayyám**, who wrote about fate and life in *The Rubáiyát*. Storytellers often used short anecdotes to entertain people. In architecture, buildings reflected Byzantine influences, and mosques included domes and minarets. Muslim artists also used **calligraphy**, the art of beautiful handwriting, for decoration on buildings and in books.

Muslims made great strides in education. Both boys and girls were educated so they could study the Quran. Several cities supported learning centers with vast libraries. There, scholars translated Greek, Hindu, and Buddhist texts. Known in Europe as Averröes, the philosopher **Ibn Rushd** believed that knowledge should meet the standards of reason. Another Muslim thinker, **Ibn Khaldun**, studied history scientifically and advised others in avoiding errors.

In mathematics, **al-Khwarizmi** pioneered the study of algebra. **Muhammad al-Razi**, chief physician in the hospital at Baghdad, wrote books on diseases and medical practices. **Ibn Sina**, a famous Persian physician, compiled an encyclopedia of medical knowledge. Both doctors' works guided medical study in Europe for 500 years. Other physicians improved ways to save eyesight and mix medicines.

Review Questions

1. How did trade affect the Abbasid empire?

2. How did Muslim poetry change during this time?

READING CHECK

Why were children educated?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *anecdotes* mean in the underlined sentence? The word *anecdotes* comes from a Greek word that means "unpublished items." Use this word-origins clue to help you figure out the meaning of *anecdotes*.

READING SKILL

Categorize Categorize the following Muslim advances:

- Mixing medicines
- Elaborate rules for written poems
- Partnerships
- Calligraphy
- A system of credit
- Improvements in treating eye problems