**The Treasures of Medieval Baghdad**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Examples** | **Impact / Importance** |
| **Design of the city**  **Card 1** | Brick walls surrounding the city, 17m high.  Pontoon bridges of boats linked the city across the River Tigris.  Each district of the city had hospitals, mosques, houses, bazaars (markets) and workshops.  A network of canals surrounded the city. | This would keep the city safe from attacks, and shows good planning.  These were helpful for 2 reasons: firstly…  Secondly…  This meant that…  These were used to… |
| **Scholars, knowledge and books**  **Cards 2 and 3** | Traders brought goods, knowledge and ideas from all over the world, and scholars were sent to search for new knowledge in Persia, Byzantium, north Africa, India and China.  The caliph paid scholars of all religions fairly to translate different texts in the House of Wisdom.  Traders brought knowledge of paper-making and wood-block printing to Baghdad from China.  The most impressive libraries were in religious colleges. | Texts and knowledge from all over the world were collected in Baghdad, making it a place of learning and scholarship.  All scholars were treated equally. They did more than just translate – they…  The knowledge that was…  It still affects…  This made it possible to…  Baghdad soon became a city of bookshops and libraries, with over…  Some people..  These colleges…  In the 13th century… |
| **Maths**  **Card 4** | Scholars translated a lot of ancient geometry.  One of the greatest achievements was the development of the Indian number system. | This was used to…  This was much simpler than Roman numerals, and was based on…  Without the idea of zero… |
| **Astronomy**  **Card 4** | The caliph paid for…  Astronomers developed the astrolabe, a… | This allowed astronomers to…  This was important for Islam because…  This allowed travellers to… |
| **Geography**  **Card 5** | The caliph encouraged geographers in the House of Wisdom to… | The maps and geography books produced… |
| **Science and technology**  **Card 5** | Muslim chemists worked out how to produce…  They developed magnetic compasses from ancient Chinese ideas.  They worked out how we see, and developed the science of…  Scholars in Baghdad also produced the first water-wheel. | This was important for travellers, who…  This is what our modern…  This would be very important in… |
| **Philosophy**  **Card 5** | Philosophers were very important in Baghdad, as the big questions of life were considered deeply. Al-Ghazali was a the son of poor, illiterate parents, but soon became… | He thought a lot about the education of children. He said that children should not…  Al-Ghazali described money as… |
| **Medicine**  **Card 6** | Islamic doctors used and developed the ideas of the ancient Greeks, such as Caesarean section births and how to examine...  They also used…  One of Baghdad’s greatest scholars was al-Razi, who kept…  Al-Razi’s most important work was…  Islam taught that…  The Abbasid caliphs built a number of hospitals, which included a pharmacy…  Doctors were trained and qualified. | This allowed them to treat patients more effectively, and save babies if their mothers died in childbirth.  This reduced the risk of infection and sometimes relieved pain.  Al-Razi’s books included detailed information on diseases we still treat today, such as…  For each disease…  He didn’t only rely on…  The hospitals were very spacious, and were built…  This supposedly helped the patients to…  This was far more advanced than… |