

SSWH5: EXAMINE THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE MEDIEVAL MEDITERRANEAN WORLD BETWEEN 600 CE/ AD AND 1300 CE/AD





Element D: Identify the contributions of Islamic scholars in Science, Math, and Geography.

Muslim Culture

Two key factors intercepted in the period 600 to 1300 to make the Islamic world a center of learning.

- First, the Islamic world was at the intersection of Afro-Eurasia's major trade routes, this fostered a cosmopolitan atmosphere where intellectuals from different regions could meet and exchange ideas.
 - Early scholarship from Greece and Rome was translated, preserved and improved upon.
 - Indian mathematics including the number system that becomes known as Arabic numerals in the West was applied to the development of algebra.
 - Chinese paper making technology allowed the creation of vast libraries and Chinese technologies related to navigation, astronomy, and gunpowder were refined.

These refinements would eventually facilitate the age of exploration in Europe (i.e. Chris. Columbus).

Muslim Culture

- Second, the expectation that all believers read the Quran promoted literacy in a universal language, Arabic, and the establishment of an extensive educational system.
 - Baghdad, Damascus, Cordoba, and Timbuktu among other cities became what we might call university towns in modern parlance.
 - This intellectual development was centered on the madrasas, a religious college where scholars studied many disciplines of learning.
 - In the field of science, Ibn Sina authored Canon of Medicine.
 - This work became the authoritative medical text in the Middle East and Europe until the 1600s.
 - In the field of geography, Ibn Battuta's Travels vastly improved knowledge of cultural and physical geography in the Islamic world and beyond.

