CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ISLAMIC EMPIRE

WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF THE SPREAD OF ISLAM?
I. THE ISLAMIC “GOLDEN AGE”

A. 8th-13th Century
B. centered in Baghdad
C. during the Abbasid Dynasty
D. empire stretched from India to Spain, influenced even farther
II. MUSLIM SOCIETY

A. The family
1. male was the head of the family
2. could have up to 4 wives
3. rights of women varied (but overall improved from times before)

B. Slavery
1. non-Muslims
2. important part of the economy - trade

C. The economy
1. trade - connected Spain to Indonesia
2. connection to Hajj
3. expanded use of currency, weights, measures
4. made the Islamic empire very rich
5. where Muslim traders went, so did the Islamic religion
III. THE HOUSE OF WISDOM

A. What was it?

1. an academy, library, museum, observatory, and translation center
2. founded in 830 AD
3. located in Baghdad

B. What did they do there?

1. preserved and translated texts from ancient Greece, Rome, and India
2. added to and expanded on ancient ideas
IV. SCHOLARSHIP

A. Astronomy/Math

1. could predict the movement of the planets
2. created calendar accurate enough to be used today
3. lunar calendar (based on the moon)
4. astrolabe - tool for finding position of the stars, planets, time of day, and direction
5. numbers - developed the “arabic numerals” we still use today, decimal system, and zero
6. developed algebra and trigonometry

Why astronomy? Muslims needed to know the exact time of day and dates for their prayers and religious holidays. They also needed to be able to calculate the direction of Mecca for their prayers.
IV. SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED...)

B. Medicine
1. licensed physicians
2. first hospital established in 8th century
3. Ibn Sina (865-925 AD) was the most famous doctor of the Middle Ages- developed medical textbook used for 500 years around the world
4. developed eye surgery

C. Geography & History
1. many accurate maps
2. figured out how large the planet is
3. Ibn Khaldun developed model for modern historiography and sociology
IV. SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED...)

D. Art

1. very few human figures in artwork
2. floral design, known as arabesque
3. calligraphy - beautifully styled writing
IV. SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED...)

E. Architecture

1. mosques- minarets (tall towers), domes, arches

2. Alhambra palace in Granada Spain- use of water in landscaping
IV. SCHOLARSHIP (CONTINUED...)

F. Literature

1. Qu’ran is the most important
   a. influenced the development and spread of the language
   b. led to unity
2. 1001 Nights- aka Arabian Nights
   a. compilation of folktales
   b. "Aladdin's Wonderful Lamp"
3. Poetry and Music
Your homework:
Find something in your house that can be linked back to the accomplishments of the Islamic Empire and bring it in to class tomorrow. Be prepared to share with the class your object.