Discover how Muslim Civilisation helped us Understand the World

Earth data
Scholars made detailed measurements of the Earth. In the 9th century, Caliph Al-Ma'mun commissioned his astronomer to make the Earth's circumference, which they did to within 201 kilometers of today's figure. Al-Biruni, a polymath and scholar, measured terrestrial longitudes and latitudes and calculated the Earth's circumference within 10 per cent of today's figure.

Natural phenomena
Many thinkers in Muslim civilisation asked big questions about the natural world. Ninth-century scholar Al-Khwarizmi wondered why the sky was blue, rejecting conventional wisdom that 'the heavens' were in themselves blue. His more sophisticated suggestion was that the colour is due to the Sun's light and its effect on our atmosphere.

Al-Haytham whose work included showing that raindrop. Al-Farisi built on the work of Ibn as-Samh, a glass sphere filled with water as a model of a rainbow. Al-Farisi built on the work of Ibn al-Haytham. He also explored the effects of light and the nature of the rainbow.

In the 13th century, Persian mathematician Kamal al-Din al-Farisi, investigated rainbow colours using a glass sphere filled with water as a model of a rainbow. Al-Farisi built on the work of Ibn al-Haytham. He also explored the effects of light and the nature of the rainbow.

Zheng He
Zheng He, also called Cheng Ho, was a 15th-century Muslim Chinese admiral who led seven voyages. His largest wooden ships were over 137 metres long. During the seven voyages, which took place over a period of 28 years, four of Zheng's ships visited 37 countries throughout Asia, the Middle East and parts of East Africa. He brought back exotic species like the giraffe, drew tribute from many of the nations with whom he traded and made diplomatic links.

Ibn Battuta
Ibn Battuta was only 21 years old in 1325 when he began a journey that would last nearly three decades. Ibn Battuta’s famous travel book, the Rihla, gives us a detailed picture of 14th-century life in a large part of the Muslim world and its neighbouring civilizations. From Africa to China, the account of his life in medieval Mali, West Africa, is the only record we have today.

Al-Idrisi’s world map
In about the middle of the 12th century, Al-Idrisi created maps for the Normans. He also made an interesting map in the Book of Roger, included descriptions of the world as known then, accurately by a spherical world and with all the seven seas you could cross to reach China, each sea with its own colour, breeze and fish. A 14th-century geographer, Al-Dimashqi, recounted life on Malay islands, with many towns and cities surrounded by dense forests, where dwelt white elephants, and also a giant bird called the Rukh.

Did you know
Travellers in Muslim civilisation left vivid accounts of their journeys. Al-Ya’qubi described the seven seas you could cross to reach China, each sea with its own colour, breeze and fish. A 14th-century geographer, Al-Dimashqi, recounted life on Malay islands, with many towns and cities surrounded by dense forests, where dwelt white elephants, and also a giant bird called the Rukh.

Flight
Early adventurers tried to use kites to lift themselves into the air. But the first reported glider flight was in the late 16th century. According to the Cordoban chronicler Ibn Hayya, the Mongol emperor Kublai Khan ordered a man to fly over the Bosphorus Strait, which is 940 feet in length but was successfully landed on the other side.

Map showing the Americas
In about the middle of the 12th century, Al-Idrisi created maps for the Normans. He also made an interesting map in the Book of Roger, included descriptions of the world as known then, accurately by a spherical world and with all the seven seas you could cross to reach China, each sea with its own colour, breeze and fish. A 14th-century geographer, Al-Dimashqi, recounted life on Malay islands, with many towns and cities surrounded by dense forests, where dwelt white elephants, and also a giant bird called the Rukh.

Map showing the Americas
The oldest surviving detailed map showing the Americas, with Brazil’s coastline on the lower left,映射了中世纪的葡萄牙和葡萄牙人，以及与之相关的地理知识。“1001 Inventions”中记录了穆斯林文明对人类的贡献，以及对地理和地图学的许多发现。

1001 Inventions
www.1001inventions.com