

# Scene 1 - Lesson 1: Ibn al-Haytham from Basra, Iraq

**Subject: Geography**

**KS2**

**Lesson 1 of 7**

## Learning Objective(s)

- To introduce Ibn al-Haytham
- To locate the geographical position of Basra, Iraq
- To discuss the importance of its location as a successful city on the River Tigris

## Resources

- Power point presentation
- Differentiated world maps
- Differentiated fact file sheets
- Atlases / maps / computers for extension
- YouTube link for plenary

## Introduction / Teacher Input

Watch scene 1 of the opera as a class. Discuss key vocabulary that will be needed for the lesson.

Introduce the children to the main character of the opera and the theme of this project - Ibn al-Haytham - by taking the class through an interactive PPT explaining key facts about al-Haytham and his home country.

Children introduced to Basra and the country Iraq through the PPT. Children to take part in a class discussion about the city of Basra, its port and the importance of its location on the River Tigris to its success. Children to compare Basra's position to the history of the Port of London and the importance of the River Thames for London's development.

## Main Activity

### Lower Ability

Children to colour in the locations of Basra, Iraq and London, UK on a world map.

Children to complete key facts about al-Haytham, Basra and River Tigris on a worksheet.

### Middle Ability

Children to colour and label locations of Basra, Iraq and London, UK on a world map.

Children to identify the key facts from the PPT about al-Haytham and complete a 'Fact File' page about al-Haytham, Basra and the importance of the River Tigris.

### Higher Ability

## Extension Activity

Children to work in pairs to use class maps and atlases to locate largest ports on each continent and discuss their successful geographical position:

1. Europe: Port of Rotterdam
2. Asia: Shanghai (largest port in the world)
3. North America: South Louisiana
4. South America: Santos Port, Brazil
5. Africa: Port of Durban
6. Australia: Port Hedland, WA
7. Antarctica: McMurdo Station

## Plenary

What do you think primary school is like in Iraq?

Talk about some ideas and then watch these two boys on their School Day in Iraq:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJVMmxkio1I>

## Assessment Questions

- Basra is in which country?
- What continent is it on?
- Where is Ibn al-Haytham from?
- What are the main physical geographical elements we have learnt about Basra and Iraq?
- Why were towns and cities situated near rivers?

## Curriculum Links

**Ge2/1.1a** Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities. **Ge2/1.3a** Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography (rivers). **Ge2/1.3b** Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water. **Ge2/1.4a** Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied