Chapter 4 – Starting with a Story “The Magic of Baghdad”

Answer the questions below from pages 110 and 111.

**Al-Mansur**, the second caliph of Abbasid dynasty, chose to build his capital city in 762 along the site of a Persian village called Baghdad. The city was a Madinat al-Salam, or city of peace. It was also called the Round City because of its construction within circular walls.

Outside the wall, the merchants had their stalls and houses. Each house had its own water supplied by aqueducts. A bridge of boats connected the west bank of the river with east. Large ships from China, East Africa, and India docked along the wharves. Their goods helped to make Baghdad the richest city in the world in the late eighth and early ninth centuries.

1. What was Baghdad known for in the mid 700’s?

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2. Read the second paragraph and identify three factors that explain why Baghdad was so prosperous:

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3. What were three types of cities that were formed to lead Muslim civilization?

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4. Why were the residential areas built in Baghdad? Why do you think the caliphs built their later palaces on the outskirts of the city?

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5. As the boy stands on the balcony of his apartment what is he able to see? What is sold in the markets?

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6. What is the most amazing thing about his neighborhood? How is it described?

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