

Baghdad: Madinat al-Salām, the City of Peace

Pre-write: Read and think about all of the questions below. Choose the one or two that are interesting to you and answer them in the space below. Try to use all of the space provided.

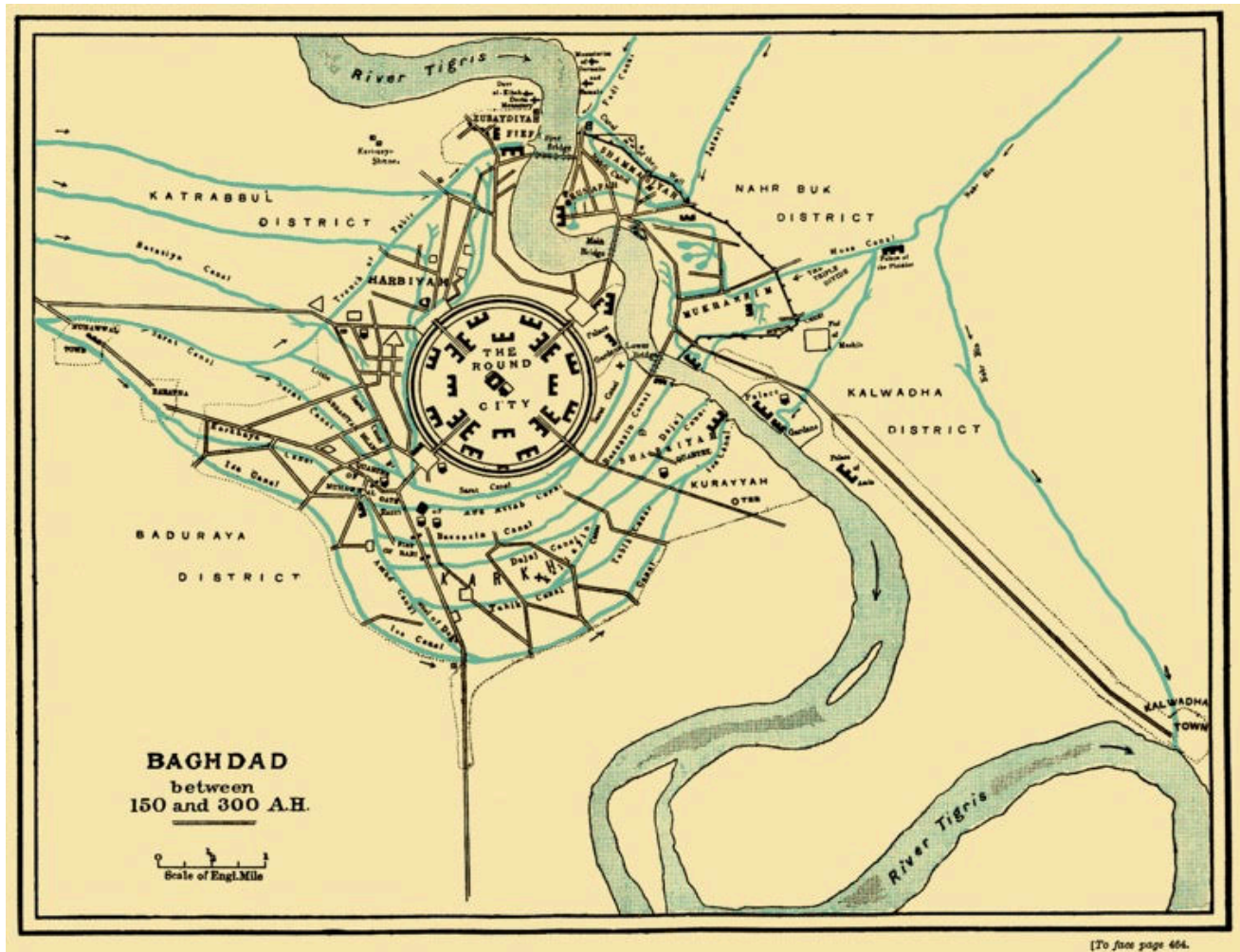
What do you think makes a great location for a city? What about for a capital city? What should leaders think about when choosing the location for a new capital? What is a good layout (plan) for a city? Think about the city you live in and cities you have visited. What works? What doesn't work?

In 762 CE, the Abbasid caliph al-Mansur chose Baghdad as the location for his new capital. It was known as “Madinat al-Salām,” which means “the City of Peace” in Arabic. Study the map below and answer questions 1–3.



1. List 1-2 cities or other geographical locations on this map that you have studied in the past and write down one fact you remember about each location.
2. Study the legend on the map, what do red lines mean? What do the blue lines mean?
3. Based on what you have learned this year, what are some possible advantages of the location of Baghdad? Can you think of any disadvantages?

Study the map below and answer questions 4–7.



4. What river goes across the city of Baghdad? What do you know about this river?
5. In what shape is the city designed? What else do you notice about the city of Baghdad in this map?
6. What questions do you have after studying this map?