



NOTES FOR AGES 9+

Explore Themes of:

Celebrating Difference | Diversity | Empathy | Identity | Role Models | Goals

Subject Checklist:

Literacy | RSHE | Global Citizenship | Art, Design & Technology | Geography | History

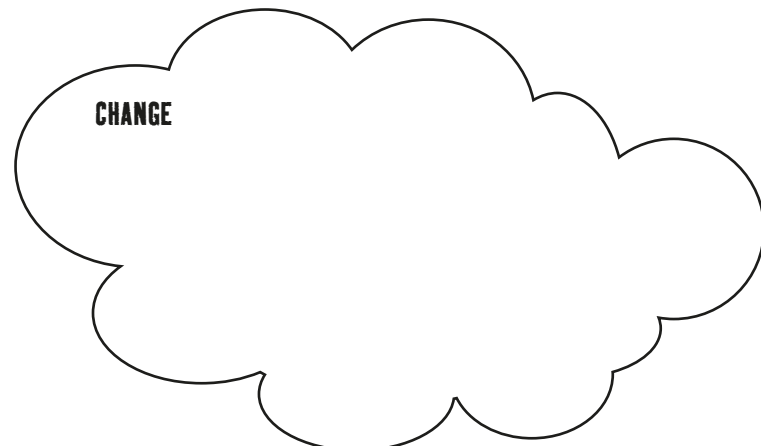
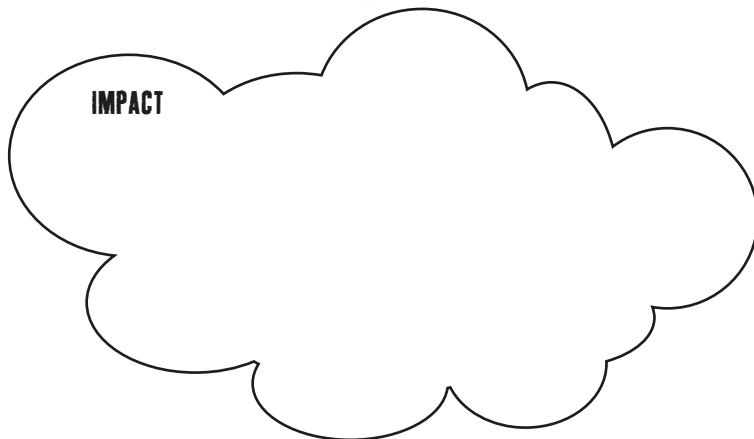
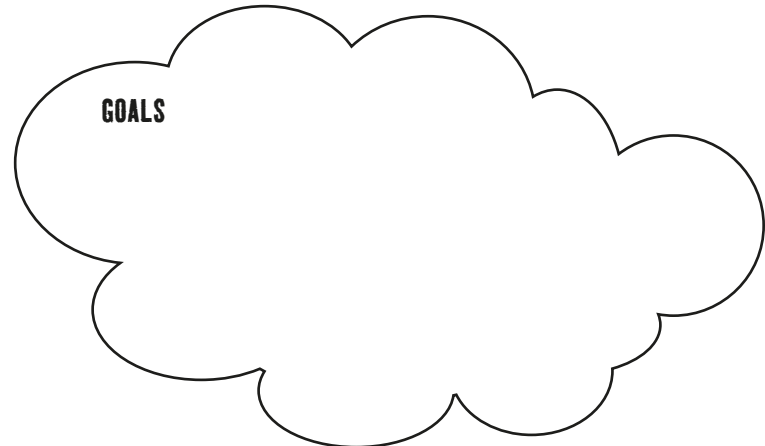
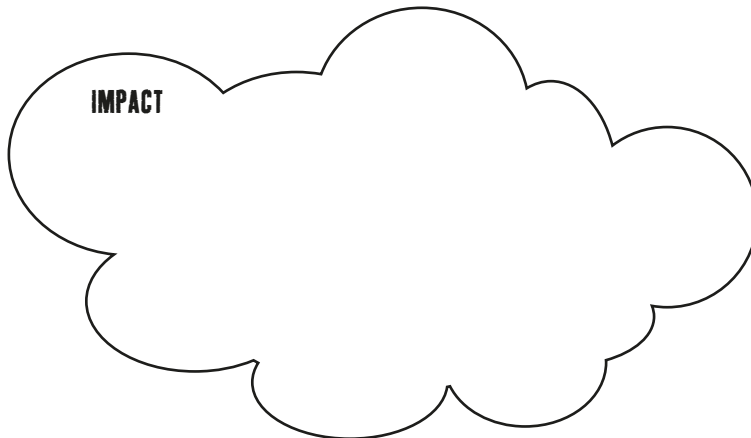
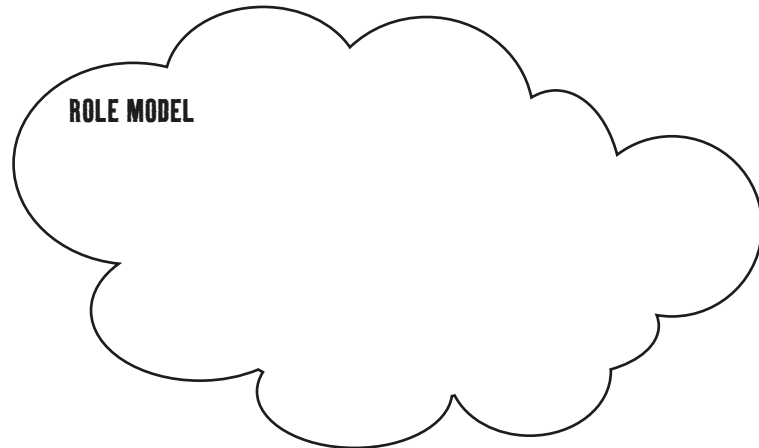
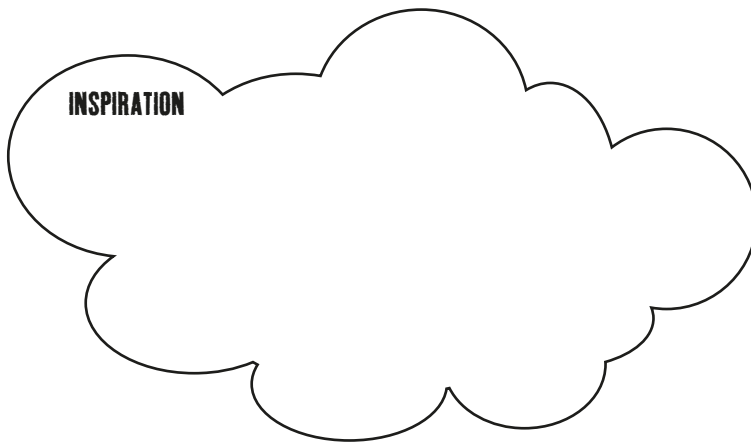
The [Reflection Questions](#) and [Activities](#) included here are to be used alongside four stories from *Amazing Muslims Who Changed the World* by Burhana Islam. They have been created to celebrate the achievements of Muslims - encouraging children to identify new role models to be inspired to set their own goals.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN...

INTRODUCTORY WORD CLOUDS

To get in the right frame of mind for the ideas and themes explored in these stories, discuss the following words and draw your associations or write down any definitions / related ideas that come into your head.





A CLOSER LOOK AT THE STORIES:

FATIMA AL-FIHRI

(Read the full story on page 42)

“Three hundred years before Oxford or Cambridge universities were founded, in the middle of the ninth century, one of the world’s first universities was built by a woman. And her name? Fatima Al-Fihri.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What sort of challenges do you think women faced in the years 800-880 C.E.? Why is Fatima’s achievement so remarkable?
- “EDUCATION CAN CHANGE LIVES.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Why is Education a powerful tool for change in society?



ACTIVITY IDEA:

Imagine you are in charge of an important university. Create your own Scholarship idea to help someone from a less fortunate background receive an education at your university. Which group of people will you target and why? What will you ask applicants to do in order to apply for your Scholarship? How do you hope your Scholarship will help to change someone’s life?



Make a degree scroll

What you'll need:

- A baking tray
- Teabags or instant coffee
- A sheet of paper (or more depending on how many scrolls you want to make!)
- Paper towels
- Teaspoon
- Boiled water
- A mug

Make sure to ask an adult to help with this!

Instructions

1. Set out your baking tray.
2. Lay your paper inside it. If you want your scroll to look even more ancient, scrunch the paper up first and then lay it flat in the tray!
3. You can use either coffee or tea for the next bit. With the help of an adult, pour a spoonful of instant coffee grains into the mug and carefully add a small amount of boiling water, stirring until the coffee is dissolved. Alternatively brew a pot of tea. The more coffee or teabags you use, the darker the paper will be.
4. Let it cool.
5. Once the coffee or tea is cold, pour it over the paper in the tray. You can use a sponge to pat it all in.
6. Leave the paper to sit for a few minutes. Then, using paper towels, dab off the extra coffee or tea.
7. Put your tray near a warm radiator to dry or, if it's sunny, leave it on the windowsill. You'll be able to tell when it's completely dry as the edges will curl a little.

You're now ready to write on the paper and give out your own degree scrolls!



MUHAMMAD AL-IDRISI

(Read the full story on page 84)

“King Roger II gave Al-Idrisi the opportunity of a lifetime: the chance to map the entire known world! Al-Idrisi immediately accepted the proposal. He gathered a team of skilled artists and dispatched them to countries across the globe, ordering them to record what they saw. Al-Idrisi questioned sailors and travellers who passed through Sicily’s numerous ports about their knowledge of the Earth, painting the pictures of their journeys.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

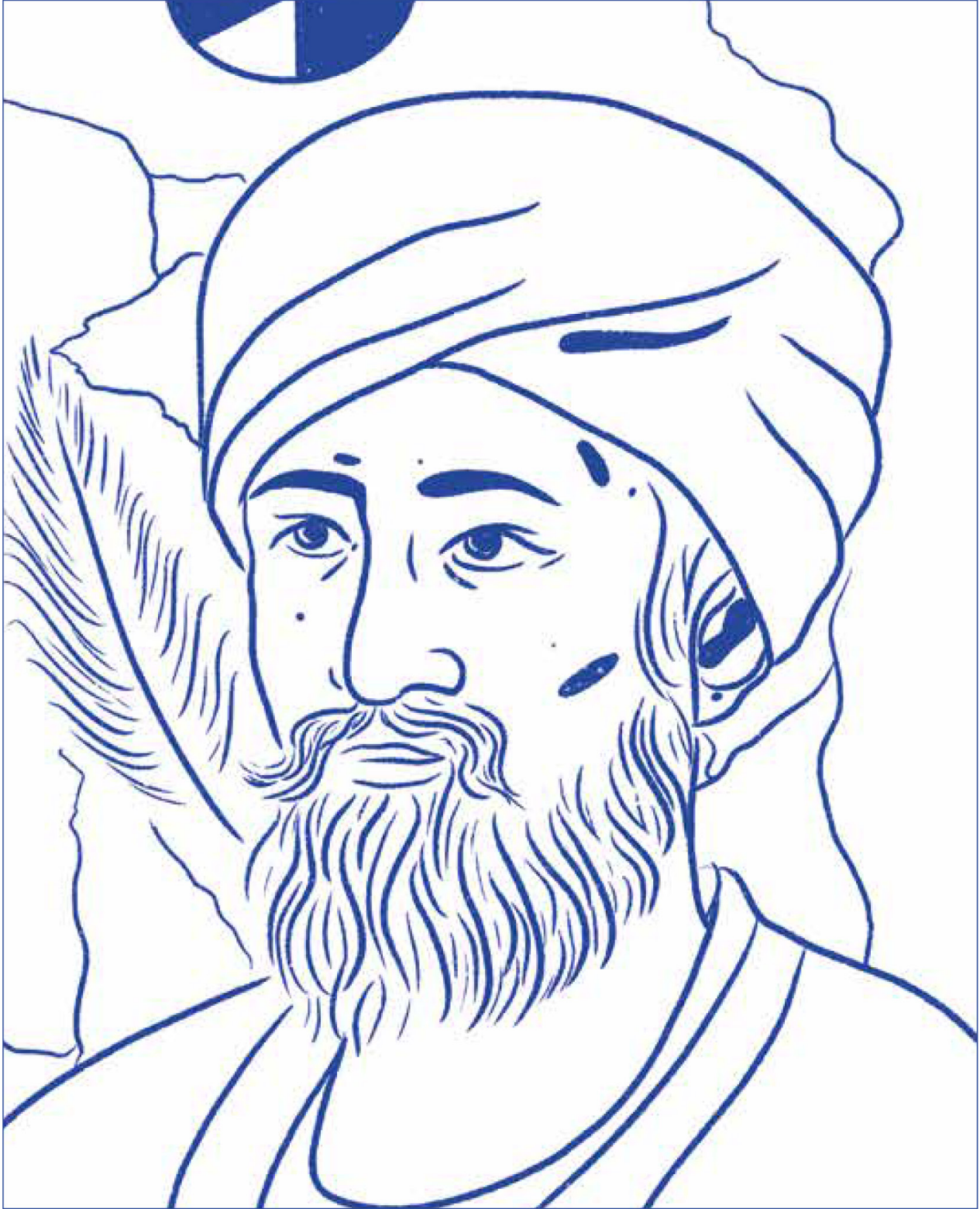
- What sort of skills do you think Muhammad Al-Idrisi must’ve had to be good at creating a map of the world? Do you think he just had one skill, or lots of skills?
- What sorts of challenges would Muhammad have faced in trying to create a map in the year 1145? How do you think he might’ve overcome these challenges?

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Put yourself into Muhammad Al-Idrisi’s shoes. Imagine you have been asked to create a map of your local area. How would you begin to sketch your map without being able to look on the Internet, use a phone, or even travel around yourself? You might, for example, ask your friends and family members to record what they know of the different places that make up your local area. Use these records (as well as your own knowledge!) to create your map. Remember, it is a team effort. And don’t forget to include a key...



Colour in a picture of Muhammad Al-Idrisi!





SAYYIDA AL-HURRA



(Read the full story on page 72)

“At the age of thirty, Sayyida ruled alone, taking on the title ‘Al-Hurra’ – the one who is free and bows to nobody. Still determined to expel the Spanish from her shores forever, the queen joined forces with the famous pirate Barbarossa! They decimated the Spanish and Portuguese shipping trade and Sayyida’s exploits became legendary. Together the two controlled the entire Mediterranean sea; Sayyida seized the west, while Barbarossa took the east.”



REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What can you tell about Sayyida from her title, ‘Al-Hurra’, meaning ‘the one who is free and bows to nobody’? What sort of title would you like to have, if you were also an amazing pirate like Sayyida and a strong role model for those around you?
- If you were to carry out a modern day interview with Sayyida, what do you think she would be like? What questions would you love to ask her?

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Imagine you are a Pirate King or Queen of the Western Seas just like Sayyida. Design a pirate ship for your adventures. What flags would you have? What colours and pictures would be on them? What would your pirate ship be called? How would it represent your unique skills and talents?



MUHAMMAD LBN MUSA AL-KHWARIZMI

(Read the full story on page 126)

“All of Baghdad knew the name Muhammad Al-Khwarizmi for he became a master mathematician. The scholar borrowed the old Indian idea that zero itself was a number and that opened up a whole world of mathematical possibilities. Until then, the symbol for zero used to be the dots underneath a digit. It was Muhammad who suggested using a circle instead so it could represent something that was empty. He then asked people to stop using Roman numerals and use the 0–9 digits.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Muhammad Al-Khwarizmi was a master mathematician in the years 780–850 C.E. (approximately). Can you mark on a chronological timeline how long ago this was? What do you think life was like back then?
- What two important things did Muhammad suggest in order to open up ‘a whole world of mathematical possibilities’ – according to the short extract here? What is the lasting impact of Muhammad’s work?

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Take some time to really explore the numbers 0–9. Create a display to show the legacy of Muhammad Al-Khwarizmi’s work. How can you draw and decorate each number to celebrate it and to show how often you use it in your daily life (as well as your maths lessons!)?





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

What have you learned from the stories of these four amazing Muslims? How have they inspired you?

Choose one of the four people you have learned about. Complete an Amazing Profile for your chosen person. Include his/her goals and talents, qualities, the challenges he/she faced, and how he/she overcame them.

Then, using your chosen person as inspiration, write down your own goal for the future. What will you do to become a role model, to inspire others, and to change the world? Write your goal in the star template below!

