

# Did you know...

From: <http://www.arabamerica.com/>

**The Arabs developed the concept of irrational numbers,** made algebra an exact science, founded analytical geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, and incorporated into mathematics the dimension of time.

**Yogurt can be traced back eight thousand years** and is believed to have been discovered by accident by the Bedouins of the Arabian Peninsula.

**In the ancient Arabic city of Cordoba** there were seventy libraries--one containing over four hundred thousand books.

**During the Crusades to the Arab world, Europeans discovered** that the Arabs had developed the first pharmacies.

**Umar Al-Khayyam** (d. 1130) mathematician and poet of the 'Rubaiyat,' advanced algebra extensively and developed a calendar more accurate than the Gregorian.

**When the new works of Arabic** and the classics in Arabic translation were translated into Latin late in the twelfth century at Arab centers of learning in Spain and Sicily, they became the foundation of the European Renaissance.

**The rababa, a single-string instrument** and the oldest in the world is the predecessor to the Western violin.

**The "Canun" a medical encyclopedia written by Ibn-Sina,** was the West's basic medical text for more than five centuries, with thirty editions in Latin and several in Hebrew.

**Dates were considered a miracle food** by the ancient nomadic desert Arabs who called them the bread of the desert.

**Arabic music is built on ancient modes known as “maqams”** which contain intervals known as quarter, eighth and sixteenth tones.

**During the Crusades to the Arab world, Europeans discovered** a highly developed medical profession that licensed its physicians as doctors.

**The Arabs invented and developed algebra** and made great strides in trigonometry. Al-Khwarizmi (750-850) is credited with the founding of algebra.

**Among Arab innovations to navigation** and transportation were the astrolabe and the compass

**The Arabs developed the arts of calligraphy and arabesque** which adorn the Alhambra palace in Grenada, Spain, with some of the best examples today in Cordoba, Rabat, Fez, Marrakesh, Cairo, Damascus, Aleppo, Jerusalem, Mosul, Samarra and Mekka.

**The Arabic musical instrument known as the “oud” came from** the Arabic word al-oud which became the “lute”--the forerunner to the Western guitar. The oud (lute) is a half-pear shaped instrument with stripes of inlaid wood and 10 to 12 strings. The lute has frets, the oud does not.

**The therapeutic value of music was discovered by the Arabs** as medieval hospitals hired musicians to play sweet music at night to soothe the sleepless.

**Al-Zahrawi (d. 1013) of Arab Spain was revered in Europe** as the chief of all surgeons and his text on medicine was used in Europe until the sixteenth century and contained two hundred of the earliest known illustrations in medieval literature.

**Some of the many foods introduced by the Arabs include,** apricots, dates, figs, ginger, lemons, oranges, rice, spinach, sugarcane and strawberries.