



cup, basins, and braziers; cast them playfully into the forms of lions, dragons, sphinxes, peacocks, and doves; and sometimes incised them with exquisite patterns. The swords of Damascus were of highly tempered steel, adorned with reliefs or inlaid with arabesques, scripts, or other patterns in gold or silver threads. Metallurgy was well developed throughout Spain; Murcia was famous for its iron and brass works, Toledo for its swords, Cordova for shields.

### Petroleum

Petroleum was an important product in Islamic economic life long before it attained its present global significance. Crude petroleum (naft) was extracted and distilled extensively; it had both military and domestic uses. Crude oil was usually called black naft and the distillate: white naft, even though some of the crude

oils were colourless in their natural state. The oilfields at Baku were developed on a commercial scale by the Muslims at an early date. Besides crude petroleum and its distillates, asphalt was also abundant. In Iraq Qir (pitch) and Zift (pitch or asphalt) were produced and exported. They became familiar in building construction, especially for baths, and in shipbuilding, while they were also adopted as ingredients in the recipes for many incendiary weapons.

### Chemistry and Chemical industry.

In its beginnings, chemistry was mixed with superstition and magic, astrology and other branches of occultism and with fraudulent deception. The basic beliefs of the alchemists were the idea of Aristotle that all matter consists of the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water, that the transmutation of one



A unique UK based educational project reveals the rich heritage that the Muslim community share with other communities in the UK and Europe.

1001 Inventions is a non-religious and non-political project seeking to allow the positive aspects of progress in

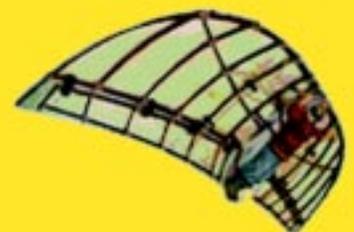
science and technology to act as a bridge in understanding the interdependence of communities throughout human history.

1001 Inventions consists of a UK-wide travelling exhibition, a colourful easy to read book, a dedicated website and a themed collection of educational posters complementing a secondary school teachers' pack

The unique content of the exhibition has been planned to generate awareness and appreciation of the scientific discoveries Muslims have made over a time-span of

1000 years. The lasting legacy of Muslim inventiveness and scholarship still serves as a beacon to inspire and motivate young people around the world.

The 1001 Inventions project strongly emphasises how Muslims, working harmoniously alongside people of different faiths and races across Europe, Asia and Africa, were able to contribute extensively in many fields including science and medicine.



[www.1001inventions.com](http://www.1001inventions.com)