

The Muslim West | Science and Knowledge

Scientific technology: the astrolabe

The fundamental purpose of astronomy was to predict the position of planets using empirical data. Muslim astronomers developed an instrument specifically to observe the height, movement and position of the stars in relation to the Earth: the astrolabe. This instrument was also used in navigation and was extremely useful for orientation and for determining latitude if the time was known; or for telling the time if the latitude was known.



Name:
Astrolabe

Dynasty:
Hegira 417 / AD 1026–7 Umayyads of al-Andalus

Details:
National Museums of Scotland
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
Muslim craftsmen were experts in building precision instruments and would often identify themselves on the instruments by name.



Name:
Astrolabe

Dynasty:
Hegira 459 / AD 1067 Taifa kingdom of Banu Dhi'l-Nun (Dhu'l-Nunids)

Details:
National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:
Muslim craftsmen were experts in building precision instruments and would often identify themselves on the instruments by name.



Name:
Astrolabe

Dynasty:
Hegira 650 / AD 1252 Almohad

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
Muslim craftsmen were experts in building precision instruments and would often identify themselves on the instruments by name.
