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## 1001 Inventions | Exhibition review

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Science Museum, London SW7 This small but important show educates and amuses in equal measure They gave us our number system; built the first university; left us with the names for many of the stars we see at night; formalised the use of zero in mathematics; and provided us with a huge array of words, from giraffe to crimson and from traffic to cheque. For a millennium they chronicled the work of the ancient Greeks, Indians and Chinese while developing their own expertise in surgery, water and wind power, optics, agriculture and other subjects. While Europe shivered in the dark ages, the Arab world kept scholarship alive. Hence the importance of 1001 Inventions, the Science Museum's homage to Muslim science – which turns out to be surprisingly enjoyable. For a start, there are the goodies that curators have been able to move from the vaults to help illustrate the exhibition: a beautifully...