



Marco Polo and the Silk Road

For Grades 3-5

5 INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

Perfect for Interactive Notebooks

Perfect for Morning Work or Assessments

MR. NUSSBAUM
LEARNING + FUN

ANSWERS

Name	Answers
Marco Polo and the Silk Road	24, 4,000, Kublai Khan, C, A, Niccolo, C, sea

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Silk Road Nations – Can you identify all of the nations? Follow the directions below to color each country successfully.



1. Iran BORDERS Turkey to the east, but is mostly located to its southeast. It is much larger than Turkey. Color it **red**.
2. Saudi Arabia is a large nation to the south and southeast of Turkey. It is a large country about the size of Iran. Color it **green**.
3. Afghanistan is one of the countries that borders Iran to the East. It also borders Pakistan to the northwest. Color it **brown**.
4. Pakistan is the nation that borders India to the west. It also borders the southern portion of Iran to the east. Color it **purple**.
5. Kazakhstan does not border any of the countries in clues 1-4. It borders the northwest portion of China. Much of Kazakhstan borders Russia. It is larger than Iran. Color it **blue**.
6. Uzbekistan borders Iran to the northeast and Afghanistan to the northwest. Color it **orange**.

Answers:



Virtual History Teacher
Marco Polo Test

Name: _____

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Marco Polo, or, reference the mrnussbaum.com online biography, to add the missing pieces.

Question 1: Describe the Relationship between Kublai Khan and Marco Polo	Score:
Student Answer: They were friends.	
Your Response:	

Question 2: What were some of the things that Marco Polo saw in China?	Score:
Student Answer: He saw some cool stuff they didn't have in Europe.	
Your Response:	

Question 3: What was the EFFECT of Marco Polo's travels and descriptions?	Score:
Student Answer: People thought he was cool.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

Question 1: Describe the Relationship between Kublai Khan and Marco Polo	Score:
Student Answer: They were friends.	
Your Response: Kublai Khan took an immediate liking to Marco Polo and eventually appointed him to the position of Commissioner in the Mongol government. Marco stayed with Kublai Khan for seventeen years, which indicates they had a very good relationship.	
Question 2: What were some of the things that Marco Polo saw in China?	Score:
Student Answer: He saw some cool stuff they didn't have in Europe.	
Your Response: Marco Polo saw many things that Europeans had never seen before such as paper money, porcelain, paperback books, incredible iron works, and salt mines. He described the cities as the greatest in the world.	
Question 3: What was the EFFECT of Marco Polo's travels and descriptions?	Score:
Student Answer: People thought he was cool.	
Your Response: The effect of his journey was far greater than the answer above. His amazing stories and descriptions of exotic products influenced a whole new generation of explorers who dreamed of great treasures for themselves. Marco Polo's descriptions certainly influenced Christopher Columbus.	

Fact or Fiction?

Name: _____

Below is a passage on Marco Polo and the Silk Road. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

Marco Polo was an Italian explorer. His well-documented travels to China were some of the most influential in world history, and did much to kickstart the European age of exploration.

Introduction

Marco Polo was born in Venice, Italy on September 15, 1254. His father and uncle were prosperous merchants who already begun trading with Chinese and Eastern merchants. Because of the constant threat of war, the Polos left Venice and eventually settled in what is now Uzbekistan. The move east to Uzbekistan made trading with China and the East much easier. In 1264, Marco's father Nicolo, and uncle, Maffio set out on a two-year long journey to meet Kublai Khan, the emperor of China in what is now Beijing. According to the account of Marco Polo, Kublai Khan received them well and requested they come back to teach the Chinese people Christianity and western customs.

Marco Polo's Descriptions of China and the Silk Road

In 1271, the Polo's set out to return to China. This time, they took Marco with them. The four-year voyage across western and central Asia was long and arduous. After traveling by sea to the Persian Gulf, the Polo's were forced to take an ancient caravan route through present day Iraq, Iran, and Turkmenistan. They then traversed the desolate Gobi Desert, and made their way through several ancient mercantile cities. In the spring of 1275, the Polos finally reached Shangdu, the summer residence of Kublai Khan. The route taken by the Polos became known as The Silk Road. Kublai Khan and his royal court immediately took a liking to Marco and appointed him commissioner in the Mongol government. In the meantime, Marco studied the native languages and culture. Marco soon became a trusted advisor to Kublai Khan and began recording his observations of the great ruler and his vast territories, palaces, arms, and riches. Marco described the vast Asian trading network and, in particular, the thriving silk, iron, and salt industries. He also described the foreign concept of paper money as well as Chinese inventions such as porcelain pottery (China) and paperback books. Marco wrote that Khan's city (known as Cambuluc) was the most fantastic city in the world. When Marco's descriptions reached Europe, a new generation of explorers was born who imagined amazing fortune for themselves in the East. Marco remained with Kublai Khan for seventeen years and recorded his observations throughout China. His recordings of a culture completely unknown in Europe proved priceless.

Marco's Journal is Published

In 1292, the Polos finally traveled home. The voyage took three years and took the Polos to the Spice Islands (Indonesia), where Marco described the exotic sights and amazing resources. After he returned to Italy, Marco was imprisoned during a clash between Venice and Genoa. While in prison, Marco dictated his observations to a fellow prisoner. His descriptions were soon published as a book called "Il Milione", or, The Travels of Marco Polo. The book became a huge success and undoubtedly inspired future explorers such as Christopher Columbus. Marco Polo died in 1324.

	FACT	FICTION
Marco Polo grew up in poverty.		
According to the passage, Kublai Khan was fond of the Polo family and wanted them to come back to teach the people Christianity.		
On the way to China, the Polos traveled through the Persian Gulf, Gobi Desert, and much of western and central Asia.		
The route the Polos took to China would eventually become known as the Silk Road.		
Kublai Khan gave Marco Polo a position in the Mongol government.		
Marco Polo noted that China had established an incredible network of gold and silver mines.		
Marco Polo wrote that Shangdu was the most fantastic city in the world.		
Marco Polo's travels inspired a new generation of explorers who imagined great treasure for themselves.		
Marco Polo did not actually write "The Travels of Marco Polo."		
By 1290, Marco Polo was back in his home.		

Answers:

	FACT	FICTION
Marco Polo grew up in poverty.		X
According to the passage, Kublai Khan was fond of the Polo family and wanted them to come back to teach the people Christianity.	X	
On the way to China, the Polos traveled through the Persian Gulf, Gobi Desert, and much of western and central Asia.	X	
The route the Polos took to China would eventually become known as the Silk Road.	X	
Kublai Khan gave Marco Polo a position in the Mongol government.	X	
Marco Polo noted that China has established an incredible network of gold and silver mines.		X
Marco Polo wrote that Shangdu was the most fantastic city in the world.		X
Marco Polo's writings inspired a new generation of explorers who imagined great treasure for themselves.	X	
Marco Polo did not actually write "The Travels of Marco Polo."	X	
By 1290, Marco Polo was back in his home.		X



SILK ROAD Reading Comprehension

In 1274, Italian explorers Marco and Niccolo Polo set out on a 24-year journey in which they traveled the famous Silk Road from Italy, through brutal deserts and towering mountains, to eastern China. They traveled over 4,000 miles in all. Marco and Niccolo were among the very first Europeans to explore the fabled empire of China. In China, Marco Polo even worked for ruler Kublai Khan. Polo detailed his experiences and findings in China by writing a book. Polo described materials and inventions never before seen in Europe. Paper money, a printing press, porcelain, gunpowder, and coal were among the products he wrote about. He also described the vast wealth of Kublai Khan, as well as the geography of northern and southern China. European rulers were very interested in the products Polo described. However, trading for them along the Silk Road was dangerous, expensive, and impractical. European rulers began to wonder if there was a sea route to the east to get the products they wanted at a reasonable price.

1.) How many years did Marco Polo's journey to China last? _____

2.) Marco Polo traveled over _____ miles in his travels to China.

3.) In China, Marco Polo worked for _____, the ruler of China.

4.) Marco Polo came to China from what country?

- a.) Europe
- b.) China
- c.) Italy
- d.) England

5.) While traveling in China, Marco Polo observed many new discoveries. Which of the following is not one of the discoveries?

- a.) cigarettes
- b.) gunpowder
- c.) paper money
- d.) coal

6.) Marco Polo traveled to China with _____ Polo.

7.) What word below best captures the meaning of "impractical" in the sentence:

However, trading for them along the Silk Road was dangerous, expensive, and impractical.

- a.) not funny
- b.) ridiculous
- c.) too difficult
- d.) positive

8.) Because of the difficulties in traveling the Silk Road, European rulers began wondering if there was a _____ route to the east.

Answers

Sentence	Does it belong in the paragraph with the above topic sentence?
Marco described the vast Asian trading network and, in particular, the thriving silk, iron, and salt industries.	YES
His father and uncle were prosperous merchants who already begun trading with Chinese and Eastern merchants.	NO
He also described the foreign concept of paper money as well as Chinese inventions such as porcelain pottery (China) and paperback books.	YES
After he returned to Italy, Marco was imprisoned during a clash between Venice and Genoa.	NO
While in prison, Marco dictated his observations to a fellow prisoner.	NO
Marco wrote that Khan's city (known as Cambuluc) was the most fantastic city in the world.	YES

Marco soon became a trusted advisor to Kublai Khan and began recording his observations of the great ruler and his vast territories, palaces, arms, and riches. Marco described the vast Asian trading network and, in particular, the thriving silk, iron, and salt industries. He also described the foreign concept of paper money as well as Chinese inventions such as porcelain pottery (China) and paperback books. Marco wrote that Khan's city (known as Cambuluc) was the most fantastic city in the world.