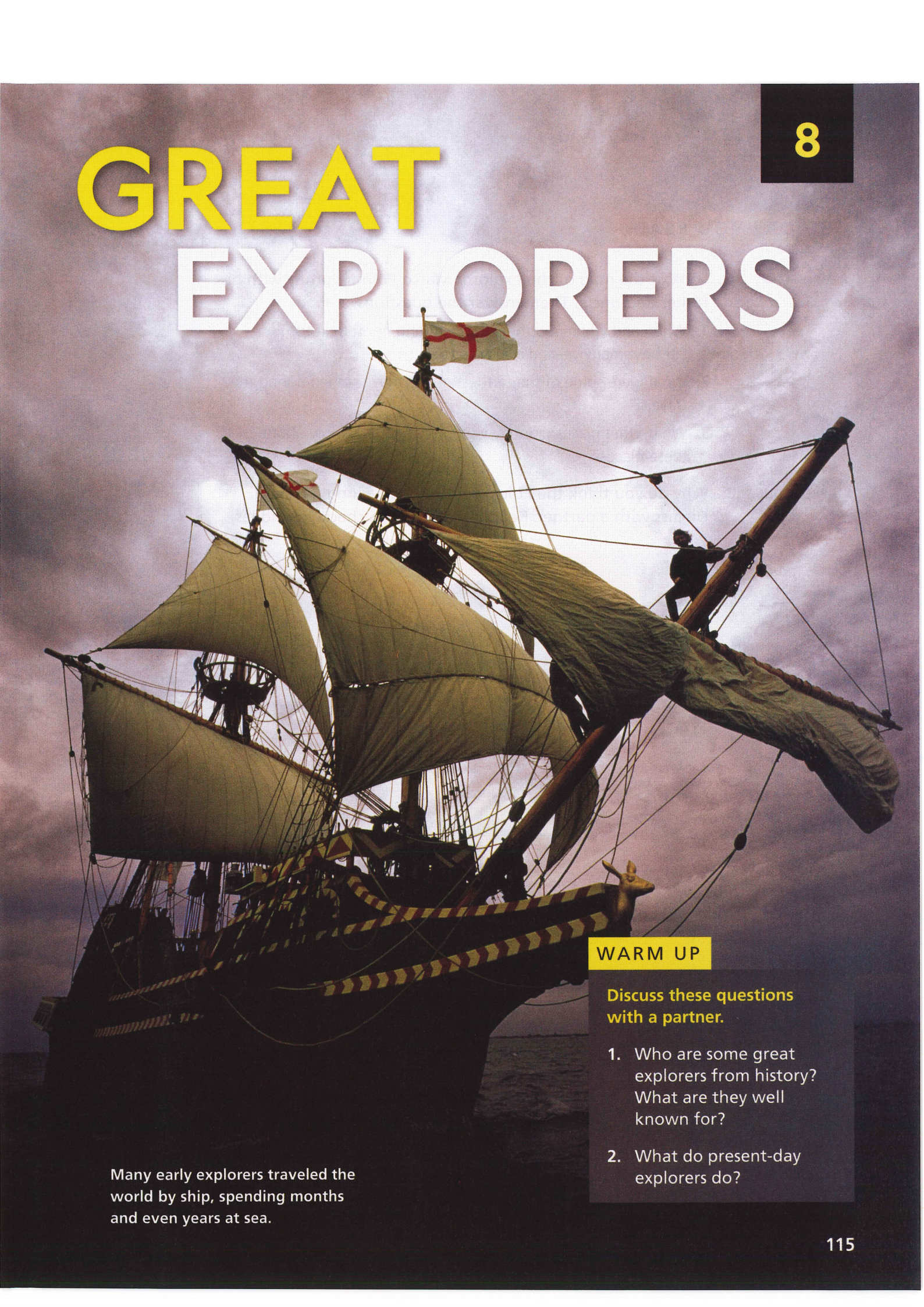


GREAT EXPLORERS



Many early explorers traveled the world by ship, spending months and even years at sea.

WARM UP

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. Who are some great explorers from history? What are they well known for?
2. What do present-day explorers do?

BEFORE YOU READ

READING MAPS A. Look at the map of the explorer Marco Polo's journey with his father and uncle. Then answer the questions.

1. When and where did the Polos start and finish their trip?
For how many years did they travel?
2. What were some of the farthest places they reached during their travels?
3. What other places did they visit? What do you know about these places?

PREDICTING B. Why do you think the Polos went on such a long journey?
Discuss with a partner. Read the passage to check your ideas.



A AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

- A The Polos—Marco, his father, Niccolò, and his uncle, Maffeo—had been traveling for three and a half years when they finally achieved their **objective**—a long-awaited meeting with the powerful Mongol leader Kublai Khan. The historic event took place in 1275 at the Khan’s luxurious summer capital¹ in Shangdu, in what is now northern China. Kublai Khan was surprisingly **informal** as he greeted his tired guests: “Welcome, gentlemen! Please stand up. How’ve you been? How was the trip?”
- B Marco Polo’s trip had, in fact, started more than 9,000 kilometers away in Venice when he was just a teenager. His father and uncle already knew Kublai Khan from a previous visit nine years earlier, when they had spent a short time in Shangdu. On this second trip, the Polos stayed for 17 years before they returned home. They made themselves useful to the Khan, and **undertook** various missions² and tasks for him. It is likely that the Khan **considered** it an honor³ that these Europeans—who were rare in China—had made this extremely difficult journey, and he took the opportunity to make good use of their skills and knowledge.
- C While he was in the service of Kublai Khan, “the most powerful man in people and in lands and in treasure that ever was in the world,” Marco Polo was able to learn and experience many things that were new to Europeans. In his travel **journal**, he wrote that Kublai Khan’s palace was the greatest he had ever seen. He **admired** the Khan’s recently completed new capital—Daidu—whose streets were “so straight and so broad.” The city was located in what is now the center of Beijing, and Kublai Khan’s city planning can still be **perceived** in the straight, broad streets of China’s modern capital.

¹ The **capital** of a country is the city where its government meets.

² A **mission** is an important task, especially one that involves traveling.

³ Something that is an **honor** is special and desirable.

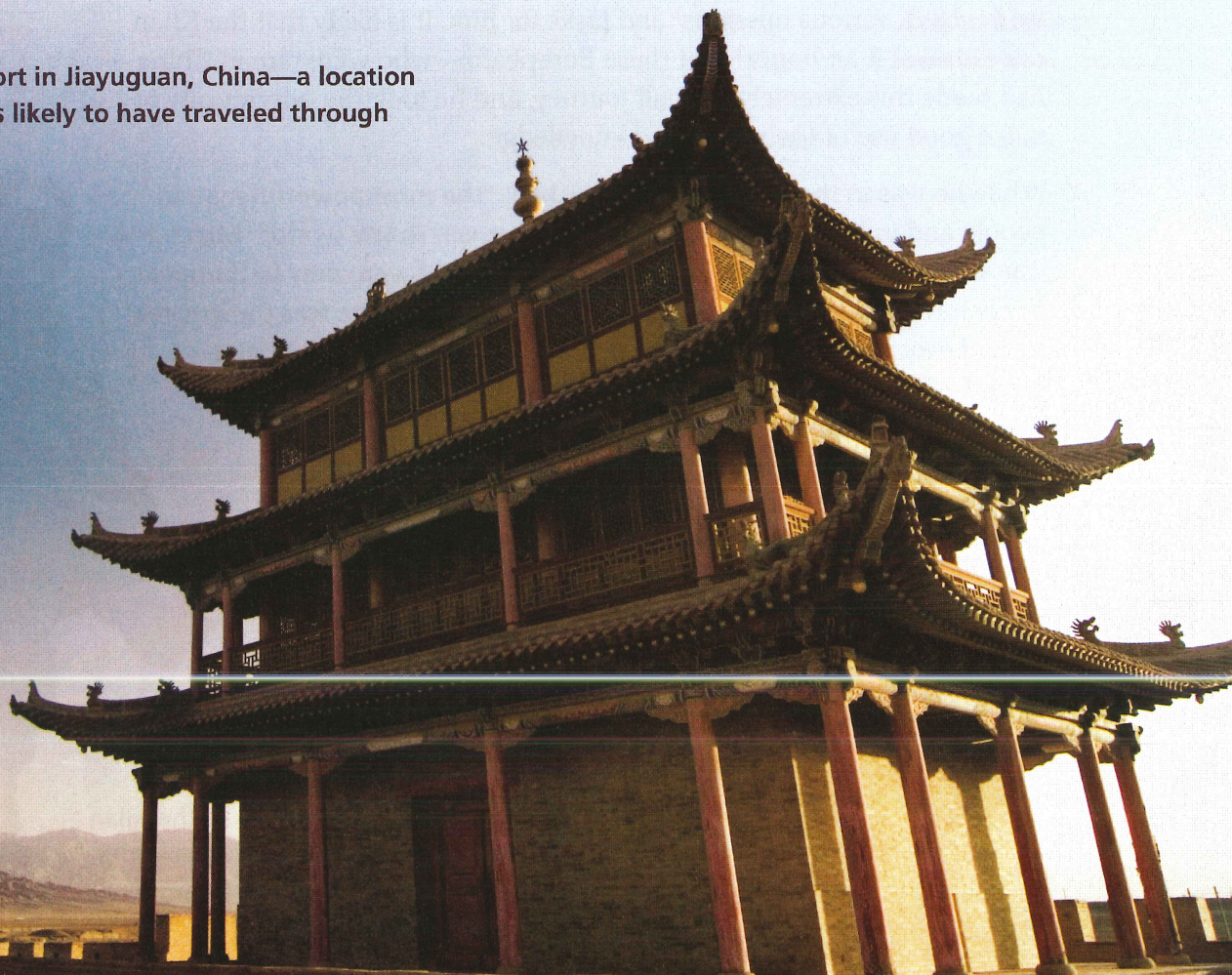
➤ A statue of Marco Polo in Zhenglan Banner, China, close to where Polo is thought to have met Mongol leader Kublai Khan



- D We learn from Marco Polo that, in the administration of his empire, Kublai Khan made use of a fast and simple message system. Horse riders spaced every 40 kilometers allowed messages to cover 500 kilometers a day. As soon as one horse had run 40 kilometers, the next horse would run the next 40 kilometers, and so on. Marco also learned the secret of asbestos cloth, which is made from a mineral⁴ and doesn't catch fire. Paper money also took him by surprise, since it was not yet used in the West at that time. Homes were heated with "black stones ... which burn like logs." Those stones were coal—unknown in most of Europe—and were so plentiful that many people had a hot bath three times a week.
- E Although the Khan did not want his visitors to leave, the Polos finally received **permission** to return home in 1292. Marco continued his **observations** while on the ocean **voyage** by way of Sumatra and India. After he returned home, Marco completed a book about his trip, full of details about his amazing cultural experiences. It was probably the single greatest contribution to geographical knowledge ever made to the West about the East.

⁴ A **mineral** is a substance that is found naturally in rocks and in the earth.

- **An ancient fort in Jiayuguan, China—a location Marco Polo is likely to have traveled through**



READING COMPREHENSION

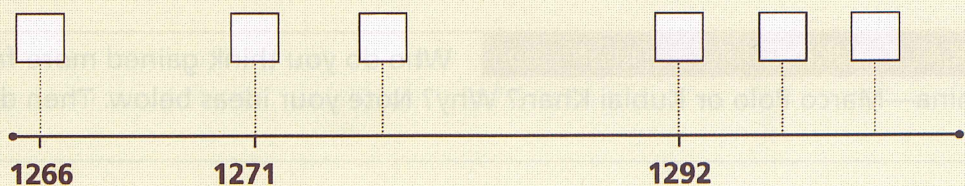
A. Choose the best answer for each question.

- GIST** 1. What is the reading mainly about?
- Marco Polo's relationship with his father
 - why Marco Polo's travels are important
 - how Marco Polo was able to reach China
- DETAIL** 2. What was surprising about the Polos' meeting with the Khan?
- He lived in a luxurious palace.
 - He spoke to them in a casual way.
 - He didn't remember them from a previous visit.
- DETAIL** 3. Kublai Khan used ____ to deliver messages to his people.
- runners
 - the Polos
 - horse riders
- INFERENCE** 4. Marco Polo saw that asbestos cloth, paper money, and coal were used in the East. According to the passage, this shows that ____.
- the West already knew about and used these inventions
 - the West had forgotten the technologies used in the East
 - the East was ahead of the West in some areas of technology
- REFERENCE** 5. In the last sentence of paragraph E, the word *it* refers to ____.
- a book
 - culture
 - Marco Polo's journey

SEQUENCING B. Add the events (a–f) to the timeline.

Review this
Reading Skill
in Unit 3A

- Marco Polo writes a book.
- Niccolò, Maffeo, and Marco Polo leave China.
- Niccolò, Maffeo, and Marco Polo visit India and Sumatra.
- Niccolò, Maffeo, and Marco Polo meet Kublai Khan.
- Niccolò, Maffeo, and Marco Polo start their journey and leave Venice.
- Niccolò and Maffeo Polo meet Kublai Khan.



READING SKILL

Taking Notes on a Reading (1)

Note-taking can help you stay focused while reading and will allow you to better understand and analyze a text. Here are some tips:

1. Summarize in your own words. Doing so will help you engage more with the passage. If you want to quote directly from the text, use quotation marks (" ").
2. Use headings, bullet points, and numbering systems to organize information and present it clearly.
3. Keep your notes short. Write down only the key words and ideas. Consider using abbreviations to save time. For example:
 - Use standard abbreviations *w/ = with b/c = because e.g. = for example*
 - Use initials *USA = United States EU = European Union*
 - Write 1–2 syllables *esp = especially approx = approximately*
 - Write only consonants *hr = hour wk = week yr = year*

TAKING NOTES A. Complete the notes below using a word or number from the reading passage.

MP's journey to China

- Started in Venice when MP was a ¹ _____
- Approx ² _____ km
- Stayed in Shangdu for ³ _____ yrs, left 1292
- Helped ⁴ _____ w/ various tasks
- KK "considered it an honor" b/c ⁵ _____ rare in China

MP's observations

- KK had amazing palace
- Impressed by capital, Daidu (now center of ⁶ _____)
- KK had fast ⁷ _____ system w/ horse riders
- Learned about: 1. asbestos cloth, 2. ⁸ _____ money, 3. coal

Why important?

- Used notes to complete a ⁹ _____
- Considered "single greatest contribution to geographical knowledge" about East to the West

CRITICAL THINKING Inferring Information

Who do you think gained more from the Polos' visit to China—Marco Polo or Kublai Khan? Why? Note your ideas below. Then discuss with a partner.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

DEFINITIONS A. Complete the definitions using the words in the box.

informal objective observations perceive permission

- Your _____ is what you are trying to achieve.
- To _____ something means to see it.
- Your _____ are what you see or notice.
- If you have _____ to do something, you are allowed to do it.
- If a situation is _____, it is usually relaxed, friendly, or unofficial.

COMPLETION B. Complete the information. Circle the correct words.

After surviving the dangers of the ocean ¹**voyage / observation** from China, Marco Polo reached his home city of Venice. But more troubles awaited him there. At that time, cities in Italy were often at war with each other. During fighting between Venice and a neighboring city, Marco Polo was put in prison. There, he met Rustichello, a writer of fairy tales. Polo wanted to create a(n) ²**journal / objective** of his travels, and he asked the writer for his help. Rustichello agreed to ³**undertake / observe** the task. Because of this book, many people began to ⁴**undertake / admire** Polo's achievements. Today, Marco Polo is ⁵**admired / considered** by many to be one of the greatest explorers that ever lived.



Marco Polo

WORD FORMS C. The verbs **observe** and **admire** follow similar patterns when changing to other parts of speech. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the words in the box.

verb	noun	noun (person)	adjective
observe	observation	observer	observable
admire	admiration	admirer	admirable

- He has many _____ qualities, but patience isn't one of them.
- With modern telescopes, scientists are able to _____ the most distant galaxies.
- Marco Polo recorded his _____ in a travel journal.
- We know that Marco Polo was a great _____ of Kublai Khan's palace.

8B

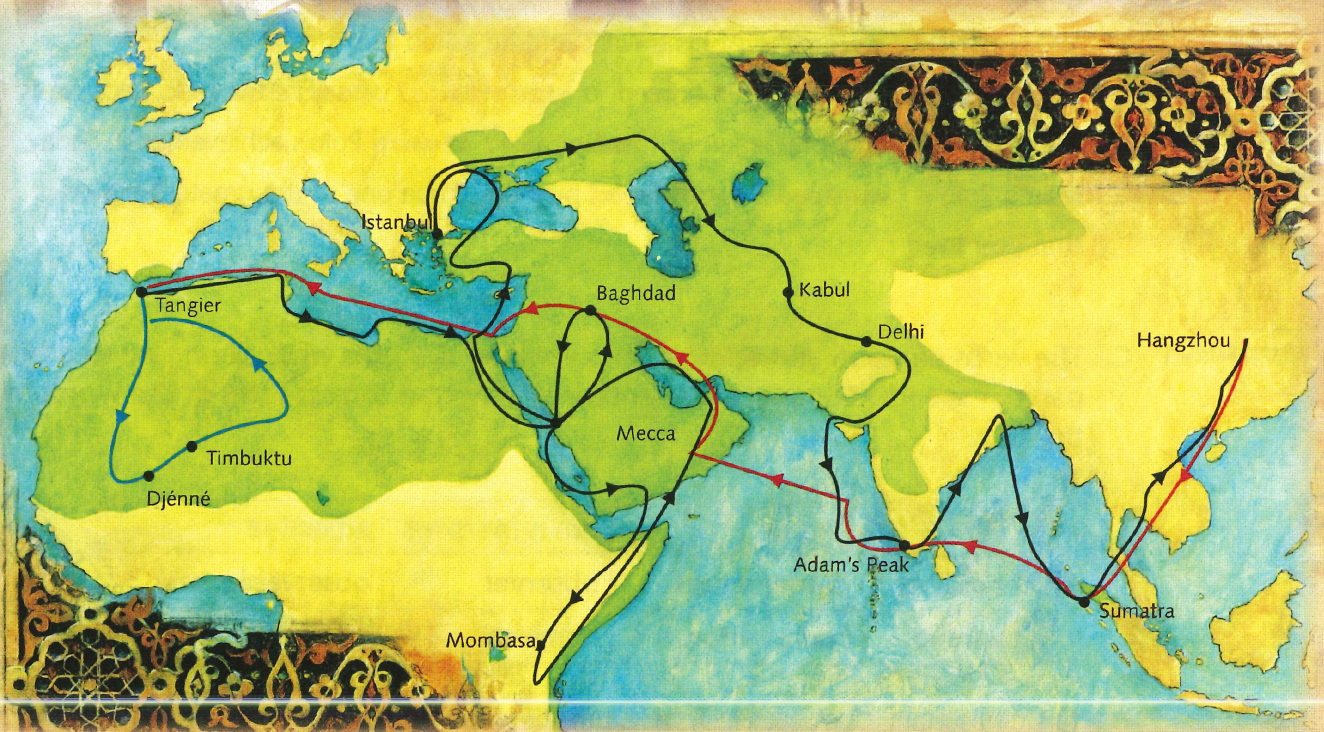
BEFORE YOU READ

READING MAPS A. Look at the map and read the caption. Try to guess the answers to these questions.

1. Who traveled farther, Ibn Battuta or Marco Polo?
2. How many places did Ibn Battuta visit?
3. For how many years was Ibn Battuta traveling?

SCANNING B. Now quickly read the first two paragraphs of the reading passage to check your guesses.

Ibn Battuta was born in Tangier, in what is now Morocco. He traveled to many places around the world in the 14th century.



The travels of Ibn Battuta



Islamic lands,
14th century




Route from
Tangier to China



Return route



Round trip
in Sahara



THE TRAVELS OF IBN BATTUTA

- A “I left Tangier, my birthplace, the 13th of June, 1325, with the **intention** of making the pilgrimage¹ [to Mecca] ... to leave all my friends both female and male, to **abandon** my home as birds abandon their nests.” So begins an old manuscript² in a library in Paris—the travel journal of Ibn Battuta.
- B Almost two centuries before Columbus, this young Moroccan set off for Mecca, returning home three decades later. Ibn Battuta is now **regarded** as one of history’s great travelers. Driven by curiosity, he journeyed to remote corners of the Islamic world, traveling three times as far as Marco Polo, through 44 modern countries. He is little celebrated in some parts of the world, yet his name is well known among Arabs. In his hometown of Tangier, a square, a hotel, a café, a ferry boat, and even a hamburger are named after him.
- C **Prior** to his adventures traveling the world, Ibn Battuta studied in Mecca for several years. However, the urge to travel soon took over. He traveled to India, seeking profitable employment with the Sultan³ of Delhi. On the way, he described his group being attacked in the open country by 80 foot soldiers and two horsemen: “we fought ... killing one of their horsemen and about twelve of the foot soldiers. ... I was hit by an arrow and my horse by another, but God in his grace preserved me.”
- D In Delhi, the sultan gave him the position of judge, based on his studies at Mecca. But the sultan had an unpredictable character, and Ibn Battuta was soon looking for an opportunity to leave. When the sultan offered to **finance** a trip to China, Ibn Battuta agreed. He set off in three ships, but **misfortune** struck while he was still on shore. A sudden storm grounded and broke up two of the ships. Scattering⁴ treasure, the storm drowned many people and horses. As he watched, the third ship, with all his **belongings** and slaves, was carried out to sea and never heard from again.
- E After a lifetime of adventures, Ibn Battuta was finally ordered by the Sultan of Morocco to return home to share his **wisdom** with the world. Fortunately, he **consented** and wrote a book that has been **translated** into numerous languages, allowing people everywhere to read about his incredible journeys.

1 A **pilgrimage** is a trip to a place of religious importance.

2 A **manuscript** is a piece of writing that is handwritten, or an early version of a book.

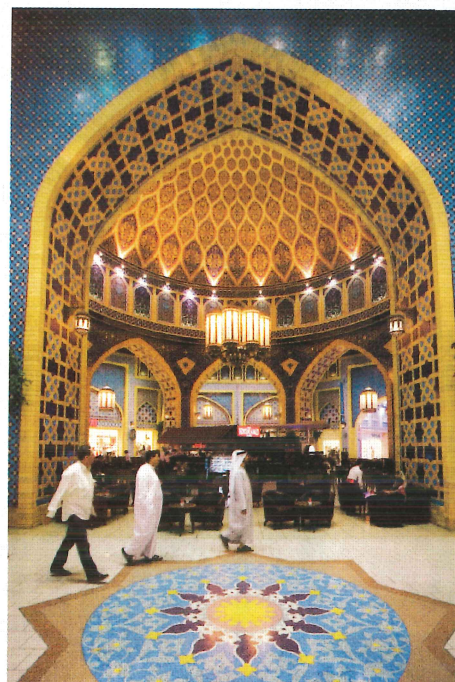
3 A **sultan** is a ruler in some Islamic countries.

4 If things are **scattered**, they have been thrown or dropped so they are spread all over an area.

READING COMPREHENSION

A. Choose the best answer for each question.

- GIST** 1. What is the best description of Ibn Battuta?
- an amazing writer from Europe
 - one of history's great adventurers
 - the first man to sail around the world
- DETAIL** 2. The Sultan of Delhi gave Ibn Battuta the position of judge because ____.
- Ibn Battuta had studied in Mecca
 - Ibn Battuta had been a judge before
 - Ibn Battuta had traveled to many countries
- REFERENCE** 3. What does the word *he* refer to in the last sentence of paragraph E?
- Ibn Battuta
 - the Sultan of Morocco
 - Ibn Battuta's slave
- DETAIL** 4. Why did Ibn Battuta finally return home?
- He was tired of traveling.
 - He feared the Sultan of Delhi.
 - The Sultan of Morocco told him to return.
- INFERENCE** 5. The writer of this passage most likely thinks that Ibn Battuta's journey ____.
- was inspired by Marco Polo's travels
 - was common for people of that time
 - should be more well known today



^ The Ibn Battuta shopping mall in Dubai has six sections named after areas of the world he visited.

SCANNING B. Write short answers to the questions below. Use two or three words from the passage for each answer.

- Where is Ibn Battuta's travel journal now?

- What three places in Tangier are named after Ibn Battuta?

- How long did Battuta study in Mecca?

- What destroyed the ships Battuta was planning to take to China?

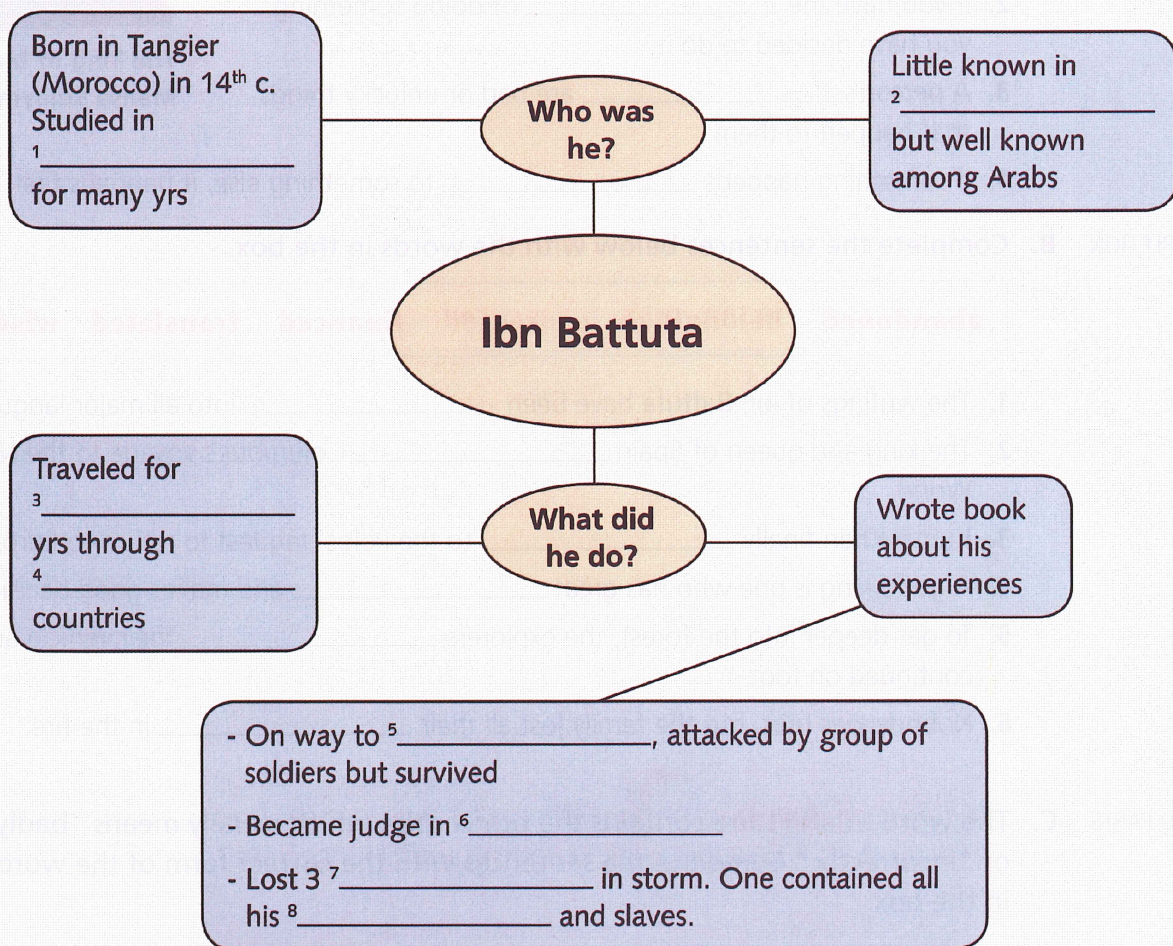
READING SKILL

Taking Notes on a Reading (2)—Using a Concept Map

An alternative way of taking notes on a reading is by using a concept map. A concept map can help organize information in a more memorable way.

If the reading is about a specific person or thing, a common way to organize a concept map is to start with a circle containing the person or thing's name. Around the circle, note the main ideas that the reading covers, and, finally, the key details. Draw lines to connect the ideas.

TAKING NOTES A. Complete the concept map using information from the reading.



CRITICAL THINKING Applying Ideas

- ▶ Think of a famous historical figure from your country. Make notes about their life using a concept map similar to the one above.
- ▶ Use your notes to describe the person to your partner.

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

DEFINITIONS A. Read the information below. Then complete the definitions using the words in **red**.

During his travels, Ibn Battuta suffered many **misfortunes**. In his final journey, he traveled to Mali, with the **intention** of meeting a king who was **regarded** as extremely generous. He was even said to give his guests gifts of gold. However, **prior** to Ibn Battuta's arrival, the old king died. The new king, Mansa Sulayman, only gave Ibn Battuta a little food. When he saw his gift, Ibn Battuta could only laugh.



^ The king of Mali, Mansa Sulayman

1. If you are _____ as having a certain quality, people believe you have that quality.
2. If you have the _____ of doing something, you have decided to do it.
3. A person's _____ are bad or unlucky things that happen to them.
4. If something happens _____ to something else, it happens first.

COMPLETION B. Complete the sentences below with the words in the box.

abandoned belongings consented financed translated wisdom

1. The writings of Ibn Battuta have been _____ into all major languages.
2. The king and queen of Spain _____ Columbus's voyage to the New World.
3. Kublai Khan finally _____ to the Polos' request to return to Europe.
4. A good king is one who has great _____ and makes good decisions.
5. To get deeper into the forest, the explorers _____ their vehicle and continued on foot.
6. Nobody was hurt, but the family lost all their _____ in the fire.

WORD PARTS C. The word **misfortune** contains the prefix **mis-**, which usually means "badly" or "incorrectly." Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.

behaved heard placed spelled

1. You mis_____ this word in your essay. It's *prior*, not *prier*.
2. Where is my passport? I think I mis_____ it.
3. The children mis_____ in class, so the teacher sent them out.
4. I thought he said the party started at 7, but I may have mis_____ him.

THE LEGEND OF MARCO POLO

▲ Marco Polo's travels included a long and difficult journey across the Taklamakan Desert.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

PREVIEWING A. Read the extracts from the video. Match each word in **bold** with its definition.

"The temperature of the desert is **formidable** in the summer."

"The hall is so vast that it could sit 6,000 for one **banquet**."

"The city was **excavated** in the 1930s ..."

"Throughout the **province** of Cathay, there are large black stones dug from the mountains."

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| 1. formidable | • | • | a. an area within a country |
| 2. banquet | • | • | b. to remove earth carefully to find buried objects |
| 3. excavate | • | • | c. a large meal, usually for many people |
| 4. province | • | • | d. inspiring fear or respect by being large or powerful |

PREDICTING B. Some historians do not believe that Marco Polo actually visited China. What could be some possible reasons? Note your ideas below. Then discuss with a partner.

WHILE YOU WATCH

GIST A. Watch the video. Check the questions that are answered.

- a. Why was Polo put in jail?
- b. Who helped Polo write his travel book?
- c. When did Polo begin his journey to China?
- d. What was Polo's desert journey probably like?
- e. How did Polo describe the Khan's summer palace?
- f. How many languages has Polo's book been translated into?

DETAIL B. Watch the video again. Do the following descriptions give support for or against the claim that Polo visited China? Write **F** (for) or **A** (against) for each.

Polo's description of ...

- a. a battle that took place in China _____
- b. a large and unusual animal _____
- c. a material that can be used as fuel _____
- d. an extremely large hall _____

CRITICAL THINKING Evaluating Arguments

- ▶ Which argument do you think is stronger—that Marco Polo did or didn't visit China? Why? Discuss with a partner.
- ▶ Look back at Reading A. Does the reading give a balanced argument, or does it support only one side of the argument?

VOCABULARY REVIEW

Do you remember the meanings of these words? Check (✓) the ones you know. Look back at the unit and review any words you're not sure of.

Reading A

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> admire | <input type="checkbox"/> consider | <input type="checkbox"/> informal | <input type="checkbox"/> journal* | <input type="checkbox"/> objective* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> observation | <input type="checkbox"/> perceive* | <input type="checkbox"/> permission | <input type="checkbox"/> undertake* | <input type="checkbox"/> voyage |

Reading B

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandon* | <input type="checkbox"/> belongings | <input type="checkbox"/> consent* | <input type="checkbox"/> finance* | <input type="checkbox"/> intention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> misfortune | <input type="checkbox"/> prior* | <input type="checkbox"/> regard | <input type="checkbox"/> translate | <input type="checkbox"/> wisdom |

* Academic Word List