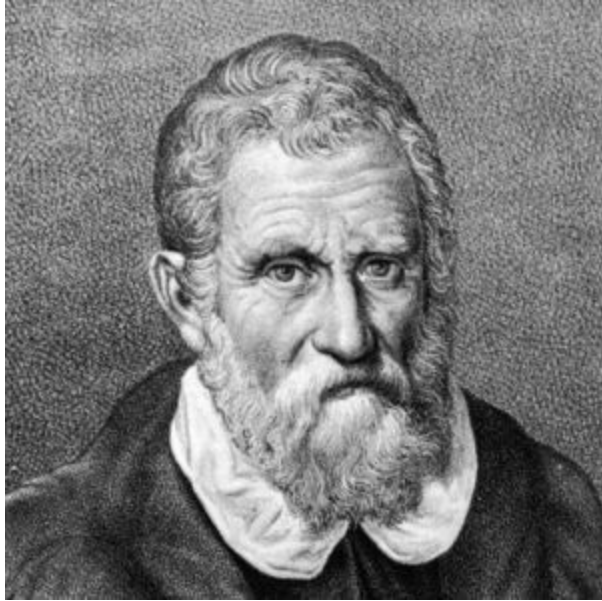


# **Marco Polo's Exploration**



Marco Polo was an Italian merchant and explorer. He was one of the first Europeans who traveled to China and Mongolia in the 13th century.

## Motive

Marco Polo was from a merchant family from Venice. Venice was one of the biggest trading cities back then. They wanted to go directly to China and bring the goods back to Venice not using a middleman.

## What is Exploration?

People explore to find more land, information and resources. Exploration is when people or animals go on a journey to search out something new. It is associated with risk. Marco Polo risked his life. The journey to China took three years. Travelling by sea was very dangerous. On his journey back only hundred out of seven hundred people survived.

## Changes (positive or negative)

Environment:

- He expanded a new trade route to China. It is called the "Silk Road".

Society:

- Because of his exploration of China, as well as of many other areas in the East, such as

Indonesia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and India, Europe began to learn about Asian culture and technology.

- Many explorers were inspired by Marco Polo's exploration. E.g. Columbus carried the book of Marco Polo on his trip to America.

## Perspectives

### Perspective 1 Marco Polo:

He realized that the Chinese were very advanced. E.g. they already had reading glasses, compass, paper and gunpowder.

Because of his travel he became rich and famous.

He became the friend of the Mongol king Kublai Khan who was ruling China.

### Perspective 2 Kublai Khan:

He was happy to have Marco Polo as an advisor because he was smart and came from a different culture.

## How does this evidence support the big ideas of the unit

This unit is about exploring and Marco Polo is one of the greatest explorers.

I support exploration because without it we wouldn't be able to find out something new and our world wouldn't be so advanced. That's why exploration is something positive.

