READING COMPREHENSION

A2-13

Long-distance travel can be difficult for anyone, but it used to be even more challenging. Yet despite the difficulty, people have always wanted to see and learn about distant regions. These three brave explorers did exactly that—hundreds of years ago! The result was an exchange of knowledge and culture that changed the world.

Marco Polo (1254–1324) We don't know exactly when and where Marco Polo was born, but he lived in Venice and Genoa, in what is now Italy, and he traveled east—far beyond the borders of Europe into Asia. The stories he published after his travels seem to mix together fact and fiction, but they inspired other European explorers, including Christopher Columbus.

Ibn Battuta (1304–1369) Ibn Battuta was a remarkable traveler. Born in Morocco, he visited most of the Muslim world—North Africa, the Middle East, and East Africa—as well as South Asia, including Sri Lanka and India, and even China. Battuta's goal was to search for knowledge and new experiences, and his stories taught people about other parts of the world at a time when few people traveled.

Zheng He (1371–1433) The explorations of Zheng He took him by sea from China west to the Middle East and Africa. According to stories, Zheng commanded enormous ships more than 400 feet (122 m) long—much, much larger than other ships of the time. The size of the ships was probably helpful for trade, as well as for carrying military people and equipment.

1. What is the topic of the text?

a) Three brave explorers

b) Distant regions of the world

c) Famous people

2. What sentence is not correct?

a) Long-distance travel is always difficult.

b) Zheng He explored some parts of Africa.

c) Marco Polo was inspired by Columbus

3:The result of the explorations mentioned was cultural exchange. T F NI

4: Marco Polo was not born in Venice. T F NI

5:Buttuta's stories taught people about diffeRent and new parts of the world. T F NI

6: Other ships were much longer than Zheng He's ships at the time. T F NI