



Lessons 5–6 The travels of Ibn Jubayr

Reading

- 1 Read about Ibn Jubayr, a medieval traveller and writer. Complete the table.



Name	Ibn Jubayr al-Kinani
Place of birth	
Dates of journey	
Places visited	
Reasons why we remember him today	1 He started _____ 2 He made _____ 3 Historians _____

Ibn Jubayr was born in Valencia in Spain when it was part of the great Muslim Empire of *El Andalus*. He made his *Hajj*, his pilgrimage to Mecca, from February 1183 to April 1185 – travelling from Spain via Egypt, Arabia, Iraq, Syria, the Kingdom of Jerusalem and Sicily – and wrote about his experiences.

The descriptions of the places he visited and the people he met are so clear and detailed that they are an important source of information for historians even now. The maps he made of the places he travelled through were also very good and some of the most accurate of those areas at that time. His way of writing was copied by many people and it became a new *literary genre called a *rihla*. Ibn Jubayr's own *rihla* has been translated into many languages including English, French, Russian and German and it is still an exciting travel adventure story today.

*literary genre – type of writing