

Read the text. Choose one of the variants



Many people are interested in visiting new and interesting places. Tourism, the act of paying money to go from one place to another to see different and unique sights, is a fact of civilized life since approximately the 12th century. Of course, back in days it was basically the upper classes that had the time, the money, and the interest in travelling from spot to spot.

The word "travel" by the way comes from the medieval English word "travail" which means suffering great hardship and that is a very good description of travel in the earliest days. Much has been written about the journeys of Marco Polo, who until recently was considered the

first tourist.



Celebrated in books, movies, musicals and television specials in several countries, Marco Polo is today a hero in Italy and in China: Venice named its airport after a beloved native son. There's the Marco Polo bridge outside Beijing, and no tourist to the Chinese capital in was ever allowed to miss the Marco Polo Carpet Shop at the Temple of Heaven. Across Asia, in tributaries of the storied Old Silk Road that linked West and East, Polo's name has brought modern travellers to restaurants, hotels and souvenir



shops.