

Listening and Speaking

- 1 You are going to listen to a short biography of William Shakespeare. Before you listen, complete the table. Then listen and check. 🎧 018

Things I know about Shakespeare's life	Things I'd like to know about Shakespeare's life



- 2 Listen again and match the facts to the numbers. 🎧 019

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1 the number of children Shakespeare had | a 1564 |
| 2 the number of plays Shakespeare wrote | b 39 |
| 3 the year Shakespeare was born | c 18 |
| 4 the year Shakespeare died | d 1616 |
| 5 how old Shakespeare was when he got married | e 3 |

- 3 Listen again and complete. 🎧 020

Exam Tip!

The first time you listen, identify the sections with the information you need. The second time you listen, find the information.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF William Shakespeare

Born: ¹ _____ April, 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon

Father's name: ² _____

Mother's name: Mary

Married Anne Hathaway in ³ _____

Work: 39 plays, ⁴ _____ sonnets

Wrote most of his plays: 1589–⁵ _____

Died: 1616 at the age of ⁶ _____

First complete work made into a book by friends and actors who knew him: ⁷ _____



Reading and Writing

1 Look at the pictures. Discuss the questions with a partner.

a



Marco Polo

Have you ever heard of this man?
What did he do?

b



silk

Have you, or anyone in your family got clothes made of this material?

c



Have you ever heard of the Silk Road? What was it?

2 Read the text about the Silk Road. Then number the items in the order they are in the text.

spices	☐	the Mediterranean Sea	☐	the East	☐
Marco Polo	☐	the West	☐	camels	☐

The Silk Road

The Silk Road began in about 130 BC, when China started to buy and sell things with the West. It was a road that went from China, across Asia, to the Mediterranean Sea. It was called 'the Silk Road' because China sold lots of silk to other parts of Asia and the West. Silk was only made in China, but it was popular everywhere. In India, Italy and Egypt, everyone wanted to buy silk.

However, it wasn't just silk that people bought and sold. Lots of things travelled to and from China and the West on the Silk Road: paper, salt, sugar, spices, tea, gold, cotton, wool and even ideas. The explorer Marco Polo used the Silk Road to travel to and from China, bringing exciting stories about China, and new ideas from the East.

Camels were the most popular form of transport for taking things along the Silk Road, because they could walk across sand and up and down mountains.

3 Read the text again. Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The Silk Road was used to sell ...
 - a silk from China to the West.
 - b silk and other things from China to the West.
 - c things from China to the West and from the West to China.
- 2 Marco Polo used the Silk Road ...
 - a to make up stories about China.
 - b for his journey to China and back.
 - c to get ideas for his stories.
- 3 Camels were used because they ...
 - a could walk along all of the road.
 - b like to walk on sand.
 - c were popular animals.

Exam Tip!

Decide which answers you know are wrong before choosing the correct answers.