

Reading: a biography

1 Read the biography. Then answer the questions.

The Traveller of the Medieval World

Ibn Battuta was one of the world's greatest travellers. He was born in 1304 in Tangier in Morocco, North Africa, and went to school there. In 1325, he began his travels, going first to Mecca, an important city in modern-day Saudi Arabia. He later decided that he wanted to travel to as many places as possible. He went on to Egypt, China and Tanzania, and to famous cities such as Baghdad and Constantinople, which today is called Istanbul.

For almost 30 years, Ibn Battuta travelled the medieval world, visiting three continents and 40 countries, travelling around 120,000 km. He enjoyed learning about other cultures and met many important people such as the rulers of the countries he visited.

Ibn Battuta wrote a book about his experiences. He called it *Rihla*. This is a word in Classical Arabic that means 'journey'.

We don't know exactly when Ibn Battuta died. Some believe it was in 1368 or 1369. Others say it was in 1377. What we do know of him is that he was one of the world's greatest travellers.



- 1 What was his name? Ibn Battuta
- 2 Where was he born? _____
- 3 When was he born? _____
- 4 How many countries did he travel to? _____
- 5 How many years did he travel for? _____
- 6 What was he most famous for? _____
- 7 When did he die? _____

1 Answer the questions about Nellie Bly with the facts from the box.

She was a journalist ~~In 1864 in Pennsylvania, USA~~ In 1922 72 days
Around the world In 1899 By ship, horse and other types of transport

- 1 Where and when was she born? In 1864 in Pennsylvania, USA
- 2 What was her job? _____
- 3 Where did she travel? _____
- 4 How many days did she travel for? _____
- 5 How did she travel? _____
- 6 When did she go on the trip? _____
- 7 When did she die? _____



Help with Writing

Biographies give us the facts of someone's life – where they were born, where they lived, etc. But a biography can also give the reader more interesting information than that. For example, from the biography of Ibn Battuta, you learned that he spent almost 30 years of his life travelling. In a biography, try to include a really interesting fact about the person.

2 You are going to write a biography of Nellie Bly. Use the biography of Ibn Battuta and the facts from Activity 1 to help you.

A Biography of Nellie Bly
