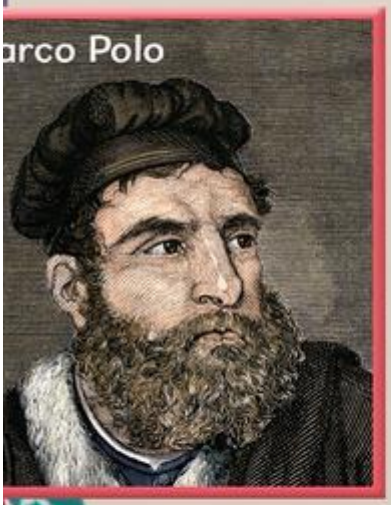
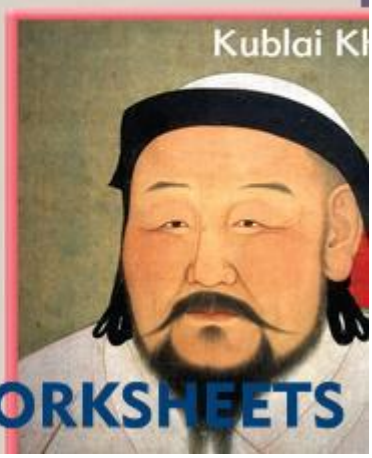
Marco Polo and the Silk Road

The Silk Road is over 2,000 years old and 6,000 kilometers long. It goes across Europe and Asia. Many people traveled on this road to buy and sell **silk** and other **goods**.



Marco Polo started his travels on the Silk Road when he was 17, in the year 1271. He traveled from Italy to China. The trip was **difficult** and it took three years. When he was 21, Marco met the **ruler** of China, Kublai Khan. Marco lived in China for the next 17 years.

Marco **returned** to Italy when he was 41. He met the writer Rustichello, who wrote a book called *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Many people read this book, and Marco **became famous**. Marco lived to the age of 70.



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