



A2-13: Marco Polo

Today, many people travel from one country to another easily, and even from one continent to another, but long-distance travel used to be very **challenging**. But even though it was difficult hundreds of years ago, there were always people who wanted to discover new places.

Explorers used to travel by land and sea on trips that often took many years, and the result was an **exchange** of knowledge and culture that changed the world.

Marco Polo (1254–1324) was one of these great explorers. We do not know exactly when or where Polo was born, but he lived in Venice and Genoa, in what is now Italy. In 1271, when he was about 17, he **set off** on a trip with his father and uncle. They left Italy and traveled east—far **beyond** the borders of Europe, into Asia.

Marco's father was a merchant searching for **opportunities** for **trade** with China. They traveled first by ship, then by horse and camel, through many countries. Everything was very different: they saw amazing places and learned new things. In China, for example, they were surprised to see paper money, eyeglasses, the compass, and **silk** making.

Marco Polo returned to Italy 24 years later with lots of experiences to share. But he only became famous after his book, *The Description of the World*, was **published**. The book inspired other world travelers centuries later.

Choose the correct sentence

- a: Traveling used to be more difficult.
- b: Long distance travel is very challenging.
- c: Explorers didn't have a major impact on cultural development in the past.

Choose the incorrect sentence

- a: Marco Polo started a trip at a young age.
- b: Marco Polo was born in Venice.
- c: Marco Polo's uncle and father went to Asia.

What is true about Marco Polo's father?

- a: He was the captain of his ship.
- b: He went to China to trade paper and silk.
- c: He learned many things thanks to his trips.

What is false about Marco Polo?

- a: Marco Polo was a great explorer.
- b: Marco Polo became famous after his book was published.
- c: Marco Polo returned to Italy when he was 24 years old.

What is true about "The description of the world" according to the text?

- a: It is an historical book about places and countries.
- b: It was published when Marco Polo was 24.
- c: Years later, it inspired other explorers .