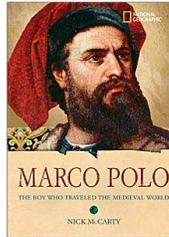
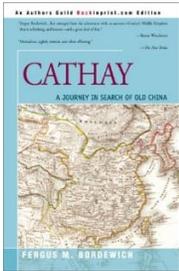


## Marco Polo and the Mongols.... Their impact on the Chinese

Marco Polo was a 13th century Italian from the city of Venice in Italy. He became famous for his travels in Cathay or China....



Marco's father and uncle were diamond merchants who had traveled to China for business. There, they met the Mongol ruler the great KUBLAI KHAN, who was Genghis Khan's grandson.



Kublai Khan



Genghis Khan

In 1271, the Polo's left on another trip to the Far East. This time they took 17 year old Marco with them. They sailed to a port in the city of Palestine and then traveled the rest of the way by camel. Three years later, they reached the summer palace of Kublai Khan.

The Polo's stayed in China for 17 years. Kublai Khan gave them jewels, silk, and other valuable treasures. Marco actually became an aide to the great Kublai and even acted as a governor of a Chinese city.

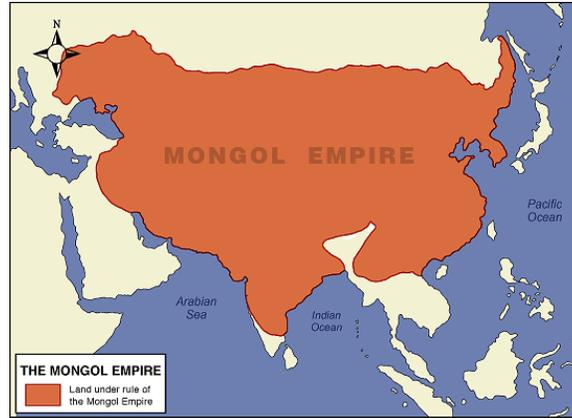
Kublai Khan sent Marco on many tours of the Mongol Empire. Marco always took detailed notes of where he visited and went so that he could report directly to Kublai Khan. These notes will also help him write his book later.

The Polo's will eventually leave China in 1292. When they get back to Venice 3 years later, 1295, they found that the city was at war with another Italian rival city, Genoa.

Marco will become a leader in the Venetian army and actually commanded a galley, a ship that is powered by oars. He was captured by the Genoese and spent a year in prison. With the help of another prisoner, Marco would write his famous book A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORLD.



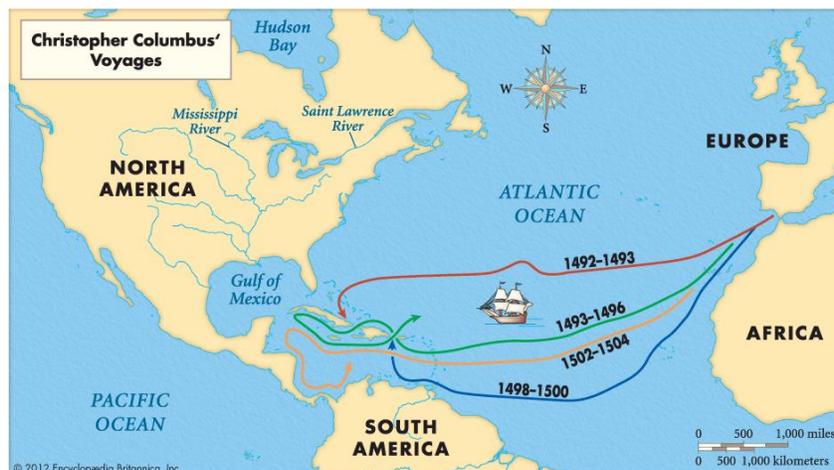
The book told about the Mongol Empire, the largest in the history of the world. It stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. Within its borders lived many different people and cultures.



The book also described Kublai Khan and his court and the cities of China. It told of the great wealth in the Far East and of luxuries far beyond the imaginations of any western European. Marco also described the customs habits and lifestyles of the people living in the empire.



Marco Polo's book gave Europeans some of their first ideas about the Far East. Europeans who read it became interested in trading with China. Mapmakers later made better and more accurate maps based on his description in the book. In fact, a young captain named Christopher Columbus read his book and later made the decision to seek a sea route to the Far East.... Going west not east.... And we all know how that turned out don't we .....



Questions....

1. Where is Marco Polo from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Marco Polo travel to China? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Marco become a governor of a Chinese City? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Marco take such detailed notes while in China? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What else did he use his notes for? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How large was the Mongol Empire? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Marco do when he returned to Italy? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did he do while he was there? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the name of his book? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who used his book and how? \_\_\_\_\_