



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “**Marco Polo**” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “**Marco Polo**” unit offers **14 pages**.

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# Marco Polo



# Marco Polo

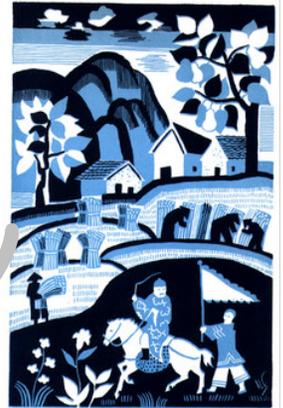
The Polos were so warmly welcomed by Kublai that the brothers stayed in China for nearly nine years. After so long a time, Niccolo and Maffeo wanted to return to Italy. Kublai agreed to let them return as long as they promised to come back.

The great emperor sent the two men back with a gold tablet. This was to keep them safe. Should someone hurt someone who had Kublai's gold tablet it would be as if they attacked the emperor himself!

He also gave them a letter to the pope asking for a hundred educated Christian men to come to China to teach his people Christianity.

By the time Niccolo returned, his son, Marco, was seventeen. He had been raised and educated to be a merchant, like his father and uncle.

Marco had studied history and arithmetic. He could sail, read maps and had learned to speak Persian, the language of the Middle East. The young man looked forward to exciting adventures.



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Read each sentence below. Fill in the missing word.

1. The Polo brothers stayed in \_\_\_\_\_ for nearly nine years.
2. Kublai Khan sent the Polos back with a \_\_\_\_\_ tablet.
3. When \_\_\_\_\_ father and uncle returned he was seventeen.
4. The Polos were warmly welcomed by \_\_\_\_\_ in China.

# Marco Polo

## The Silk Road

**The Silk Road was not really a road.**

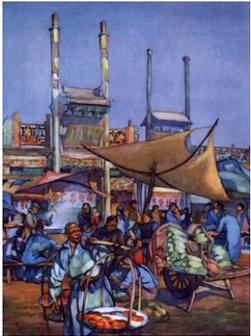
**It was the name given to the many ancient trade routes between Europe and the Far East.**

**Nor was the fabric, silk, the only thing traded on the “road.”**

**There were a great number of wares being traded along the Silk Road.**

**However, silk was very rare and came from China.**

Most merchant traders traveled only part of the way along the Silk Road. This was because there were thieves lurking along the way. All the expensive goods were irresistible to those whose “skills” were activities outside the law.



The common practice was to go so far, sell goods to other traders, take the profits and return home.

The next merchant would go farther on, still close to his home base, sell and return. Eventually the goods would reach the far reaches of the land.

Other merchants hired men to guard their caravans. These guards were armed so they could fight off the robbers. This could be very expensive.

After a time protective walls and forts were put up along the Silk Road. Many people believe that parts of China’s Great Wall were these protective fortresses.

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## CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

caravan  
trip

merchant  
silk

mission  
empire

prison  
trade

