

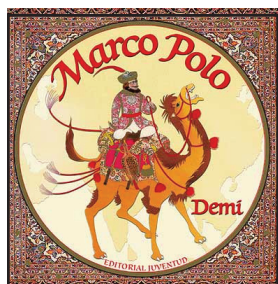


CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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MARCO POLO



The story of Marco Polo and his trip from Venice to Beijing starting in 1271 and his return 24 years later. The illustrations are in an eastern 13th century style, with gilding and gorgeous elaborate borders all using Chinese inks.

Demi, Marshall Cavendish Children, ©2008, 978-0-7614-5433-5

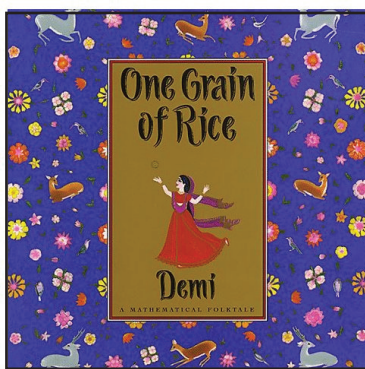
PERSONAL WRITING

A springboard from a picture book to personal writing should provide at least three topics if possible. Here are some ideas:

1. Marco Polo's was a very long trip of 24 years. Write stories of any trips you have taken.
2. Marco Polo was not believed on his return. Write about a time, or times, when you were not believed.
3. Marco Polo brought back a lot of goods from his trip. Write about any souvenirs you or your family have and how you got them.

THE AUTHOR, DEMI

Many of Demi's books have excellent curricular applications. Two of them are *One Grain of Rice* (the math story of the courier who accepts a gift of one grain of rice, to be doubled each day) and *Liang and the Magic Paintbrush* (the story of a boy with a magic paintbrush whose paintings come alive. The emperor, in coveting the brush, receives his just reward when the boy's masterpiece spells his doom.)



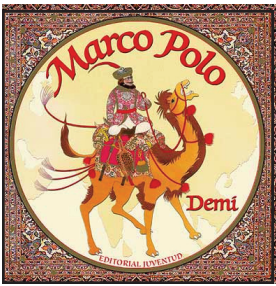
THE LIFE LESSONS OF MARCO POLO

Try giving the students a set of potential life lessons we could learn from Marco Polo before you read excerpts from the book. Ask them to listen and select four potential lessons. Tell them they can also draw lessons of their own from your readings. For each of them, they are to write one paragraph explaining how Marco Polo exemplifies that lesson. Discuss their opinions in small groups and as the class.

1. Go outside your comfort zone.
2. Always record your travels.
3. Taste many different types of food.
4. Stick to your guns.
5. Be prepared to take risks.
6. Build a network of connections and friends.
7. Work hard for your money.
8. Learn other languages.
9. Be charming.

WHY YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO TAKE A TRIP WITH MARCO POLO

An opposite point of view could be taken of Marco Polo's travels...and that is, all of the privations and dangers he encountered. Ask students to listen as you read, and make a list of things that were difficult on his journey...then to write a letter, or an essay, or a rant about "Why I Wouldn't Want to Take a Trip with Marco Polo."

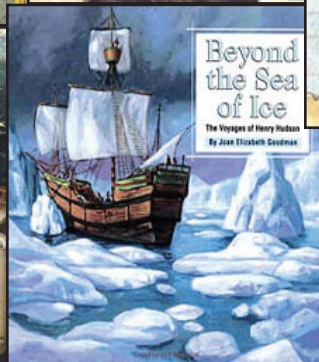
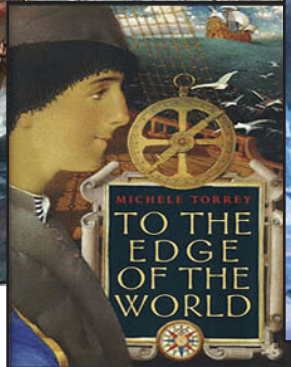
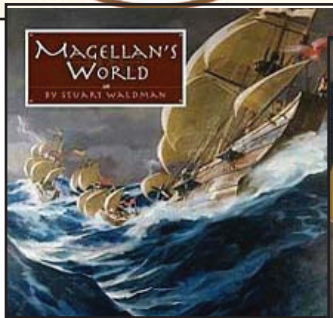
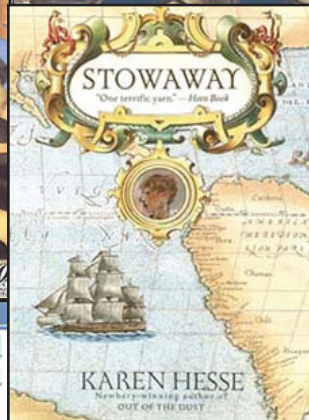
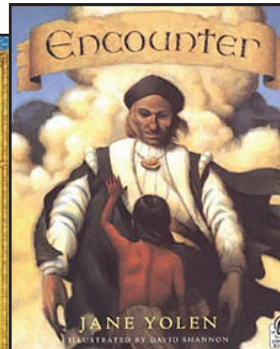
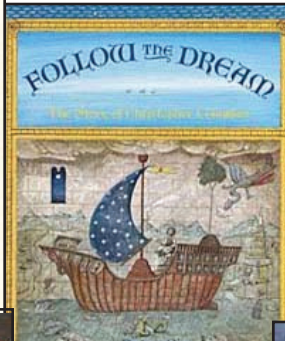
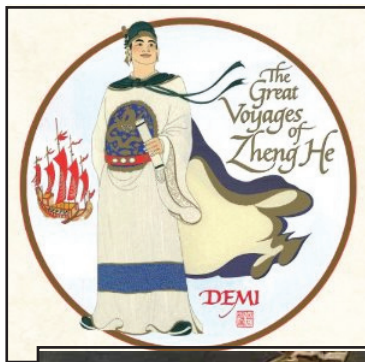
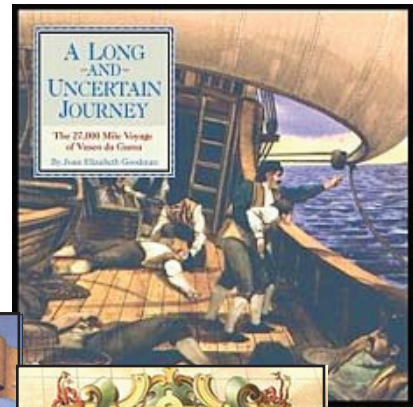


MARCO POLO, CONT.

PICTURE BOOKS OF EXPLORERS

When teaching about the explorers of the world, it is often useful to have picture books as references. Some useful picture books are:

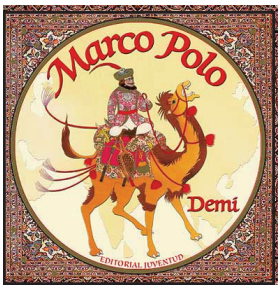
- *The Great Voyages of Zheng He*, Chinese Explorer
- *Follow the Dream, the Story of Christopher Columbus*
- *Encounter* (also about Christopher Columbus, by Jane Yolen)
- *Magellan's World*
- *To the Edge of the World* (Magellan's voyage through a cabin boy's story)
- *Beyond the Sea of Ice, The Voyages of Henry Hudson*
- *Stowaway* (on Captain's Cook's ship, the Endeavour, Karen Hesse)
- *A Long and Uncertain Journey, the 27,000 Mile Voyage of Vasco de Gama*



ZENTANGLES

While Demi's used patterns and designs common in the middle east in the 1200's, those are difficult for students to imitate. On the other hand, elaboration of design within an outline can be easily achieved using zentangles. There are many websites and YouTubes dedicated to zentangle, a popular contemporary "doodle" students can use to create a frame or illustration for a piece of their own writing. Start with a simple outline drawing, and then pattern the inside.





MARCO POLO, CONT.

OTHER FAMOUS TRAVELLERS

What is the difference between a traveller, an explorer, and a tourist?

- A traveller travels for the sake of it, keeps journals and pictures, often to share with others in a publication, of highly exotic and unusual locations so little travelled that there are few if any amenities, and often danger. A traveller may be self-funded or funded by the state.
- A tourist travels either alone or in a group to places that are prepared to receive tourists. A tourist is self-funded.
- An explorer goes to unknown or unmapped places, usually funded by the state, usually to explore, map, claim, and exploit the unexplored territory. The motive is financial.

Other inquiry type of questions:

1. Why are so many of the travellers women?
2. How did they finance their travel?
3. Many of those places are very unsafe now...why were they safe then?
4. Why are travellers women but explorers men?
5. Why are so many in the 1800's?



Lady Hester Stanhope



Marianne North



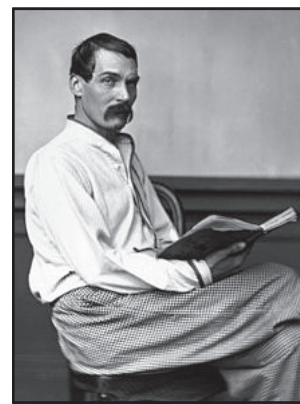
Strabo

If students are looking at famous travellers other than Marco Polo, they may be interested in:

1. Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930, Norwegian polar traveller)
2. Marianne North (1830-1890, prolific illustrator of plants, who travelled to Canada, India, Ceylon, Australia, etc.)
3. Annie Edson Taylor (1838-1931, the first woman to survive a trip over Niagara Falls)
4. Kate Marsden (1859-1931, travelled in Turkey and founded a leper colony in Siberia)
5. Isabella Bird (1831-1904, travelled through Australia, Hawaii, most of China, the USA, Persia and many more countries)
6. Mary Kingsley (1862-1900, West Africa)
7. Freya Stark (1893-1993, Middle East and Afghanistan)
8. Ibn Battuta (1304 - 1377, Middle East, Northern Africa, Asia)
9. Sir Richard Burton (1821- 1890, India, Great Lakes of Africa)
10. Xuanzang (602-664, 16 year journey from China to India)
11. Strabo (BC 64 to AD 24, Mediterranean, Near East, Asia Minor, published *Geographica*)
12. Lady Hester Stanhope (1776-1839, Holy Land)
13. Gertrude Bell, (1868-1926, Syria, Mesopotamia, Arabia, Iraq)



Isabella Bird



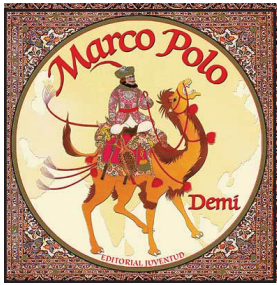
Richard Burton



Xuanzang



Gertrude Bell



MARCO POLO, CONT.

RAPID RESEARCH: INVENTIONS OF ANCIENT CHINA

In Rapid Research students quickly find 20 important facts about their topic and write them in the form of fact sentences. They might brainstorm inquiry questions as well:

- Categorize the inventions. Do you see a pattern?
- What is the influence of the civil service examinations system on organization, learning and invention in China?
- Why didn't the Chinese attempt to conquer any more territory? or trade with the West?
- Which of these inventions were copied, and expanded on, in the west?
- How do the inventions reflect the needs of China?

There are lots more possibilities students can generate.

The finished products can either be short essays, posters with an illustration, or something more elaborate like a class book, or a class YouTube, or a class PowerPoint or Keynote. This is a good chance for oral language development.

MARCO POLO INFLUENCES LITERATURE AND EXPLORATION

Marco Polo's book was translated into all of the languages of Europe. Readers had never known China existed and were fascinated. This led to trade, which eventually led to trying to find an alternate route to China. Christopher Columbus had Marco Polo's book on board. Magellan, the first to circumnavigate the globe, was influenced by Marco Polo.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote "*Kublai Khan*" when he woke up from a dream with it fully in his mind. He thought he would finish in the morning, but was unable to remember when he awoke.

Ask students to memorize the first 5 lines of "*Kublai Khan*" and then recite them together as a chant (with a drummer?).

30 POSSIBLE INVENTIONS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. use of asbestos | 16. porcelain |
| 2. oil wells | 17. lacquer |
| 3. gunpowder | 18. woodblock printing |
| 4. kites | 19. bells |
| 5. use of coal | 20. acupuncture |
| 6. "pony express" | 21. belt hook |
| 7. spaghetti | 22. celadon |
| 8. water clocks | 24. chopsticks |
| 9. umbrella | 25. use of chromium |
| 10. silk | 26. civil service examinations |
| 11. spinning wheel | 27. dominoes |
| 12. paper | 28. fireworks |
| 13. compass | 29. folding screens |
| 14. printing books | 30. junk ships |
| 15. paper money | |

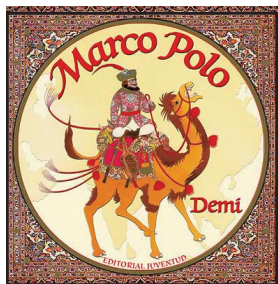
Enter **diana cruchley on pinterest** for 30 illustrated Chinese inventions.



KUBLAI KHAN

In Xanadu did Kubla Khan
A stately pleasure-dome decree
Where Alph, the sacred river, ran
Through caverns measureless to man
Down to a sunless sea.

So twice five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round;
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree
And here were forests ancient as the hills
Enfolding sunny spots of greenery.



MARCO POLO, CONT.

FROM THE SPICE ROUTE

In Marco Polo's time, even to the 21st century, it is the spices of the far east that drew a lot of trade from Europe, and eventually led to the invasion and colonization of much of Asia. From a spice store such as Galloways in Vancouver you can find whole spices - cinnamon, nutmeg/mace, pepper, cloves, garlic, allspice, etc. Buy at least 10 of them if you can - try for all of them. Create little labelled ziploc bags with about 1/3 of each of the spices in each bag, to make observation easier. That would create 30 bags (dollar store).

Using jeweller's loupes students first examine the spices. Then, in groups of two to three (depending on how many whole spices you found), they select a single spice creating a poster explaining:

- the use of the spice
- the country or countries of origin
- how the spice is harvested
- how it is used in cooking
- its history in the spice trade.

Using the internet they also select images, and glue their little bag of spice onto the poster.

Display a large map of the world with the posters around it. Stretch coloured wool from each poster to its country/ countries of origin.

Students could also prepare a combined PowerPoint about their collected spice findings as they come up on the screen.

SPICE LIST

1. cinnamon
2. nutmeg
3. peppercorn
4. cloves
5. cardamon
7. caraway seeds
8. ginger
9. cassia bark
10. coriander
11. cumin
12. fennel
13. mustard
14. star anise
15. tumeric
16. lemon grass

