

THE SILK
ROAD WAS
OVER FOUR
THOUSAND
MILES LONG

Short Answer

Type Answer
Here

1. What year was the term Silk road first coined?

2. What was the bubonic plague also called?

3. What year did Marco Polo arrive in China?

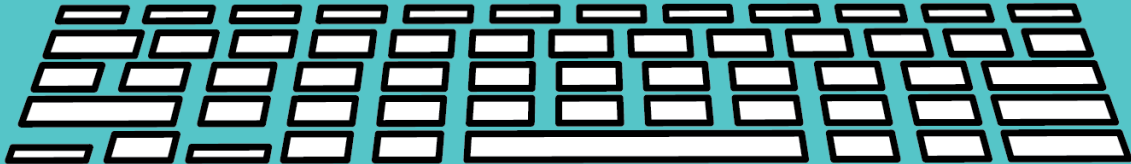
4. What country was the most populated during the Silk Road?

5. What animal was often used to transport the goods?

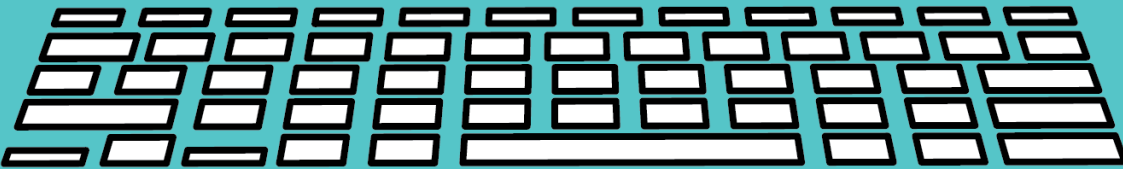
6. Where was the summer palace of Kublai Khan?

7. What empire boycotted trade with the west?

8. During what dynasty did the Silk Road begin?



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What year was the term 'Silk Road' first coined?		9. The Silk Road was a trade route from ___ to Eastern Europe.	
2. What was the bubonic plague called?		10. The Silk Road was actually a group of ___ routes.	
3. What year did Marco Polo arrive in China?		11. Genghis ___ lead the Mongolian Empire.	
4. What country was the most populated during the Silk Road?		12. ___ was used for preserving food.	
5. What animal was often used to transport the goods?		13. The 'Silk Road' is known in English for the ___ word "Seidenstraße."	
6. Where was the summer palace of Kublai Khan?		14. ___ was used mainly for ___ of the royalty.	
7. What empire boycotted trade with the west?		15. The height of the Silk Road was during the ___ dynasty.	
8. During what dynasty did the Silk Road begin?		16. The traders often worked in ___.	



SILK ROAD

The Silk Road was a trade route from China to Eastern Europe. The route went across Asia to the Mediterranean Sea. The end of the route was in Europe. The Silk Road was a name given to all the trade routes in Asia, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and India to China.

The word "Silk Road" is English. The German word for "Silk Road" is "Seidenstraße." The first person to coin the term was the German geographer Ferdinand Freiherr von Richthofen. He published his book "China" in 1877. He described his expeditions along the Silk Road between 1868 and 1872.

The Silk Road was a group of trade routes, not just one route. The Silk Road made trade possible with the Middle East. Silk was traded along the route because it was the most valuable material that was only made in China at that time.

China and cities along the Silk Road prospered. Silk was important for cultural, political, and religious interactions shared by the traders.

The Silk Road began during the Han Dynasty in ancient China. A network of routes was used consistently from 130 BCE to 150 CE. Eventually, the Ottoman Empire closed the routes and boycotted trade with the west. When the Silk Road closed, merchants had to find new trade routes to exchange goods.

Trade flourished along the Silk Road. At the time, China was the largest, most populated country in the world. The sea route was also called "Silk Road." Early on, Rome had silver and gold while China had silk, spices and ivory.

The Silk Road was very dangerous to travel along. Merchants had to travel through the desert over white-hot sand dunes or over mountains. Harsh weather also made the route difficult to travel. There were bandits and pirates who tried to steal goods as well.

The traders often worked in relays. Each trader would travel a certain distance and exchange their goods. The next trader would move

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along the route, trade his goods and then return. Over time, trading posts were established to make trading a little easier.

Goods that were traded from West to East included: horses and saddles, fruit and honey, dogs and other animals, glassware, wool blankets and rugs, textiles, silver and gold, camels, and weapons. Goods that were traded East to West included: silk, dyes, tea, porcelain, dinnerware, spices, perfumes, ivory, medicine, rice, paper and gunpowder.

Silk was used mainly for clothing for the royalty of the Chinese court. Popular spices included cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, saffron and ginger. Spices were used for preserving food or masking the flavor of rotten food. Most of the traded goods were expensive, luxury items. Camels were often used to transport the goods because much of the road was dry, harsh terrain.

Unfortunately, historians believe that the bubonic plague, or Black Death, spread to Europe along the Silk Road. The bubonic plague killed off a large percentage of people along the route. The Black Death was highly contagious and had no cure. The height of the Silk Road was during the Tang dynasty.

The Great Wall of China actually lengthened during the Han Dynasty in order to protect the Silk Road. Under the leadership of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire quickly conquered a large portion of Asia and established the Yuan dynasty. The Silk Road route became a major path for communication between different parts of the Empire.

The Mongols controlled an important portion of the trade route. Marco Polo, a Venetian explorer, used the Silk Road to travel from Italy to China. He arrived in China in 1275 when China was under the control of the Mongol Empire. He reached Xanadu, the summer palace of the Great Khan Kublai Khan. He wrote about his journey in his book "The Description of the World" and "The Travels of Marco Polo."

The decline of the Silk Road was due to the development of quicker sea routes. It had become much easier to trade goods by water rather than by land. Progress in navigation and shipbuilding made sea routes more reliable and safer.

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