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Facts about marco polo ducksters

Venetian explorer Marco Polo spent more than two decades serving Kublai Khan, one of the greatest rulers in history who ruled Mongolia for 34 years. Polo was known for his book *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which describes his travel and experiences in Asia. Polo travelled extensively with his family, travelled from Europe to Asia from 1271 to 1295 and remained in China for 17 of those years. Take a look at the real life of this legendary explorer to separate fact from the fiction. Polo was just 15 years old when he left Venice on the great adventure that took him to the court of Kublai Khan.His father Niccolò and his uncle Maffeo Polo had made the journey earlier. Polo barely knew his father, who had spent Polo's childhood as an itinerant merchant when they went on their quest. But the death of Polo's mother convinced Niccolò to follow him on the return trip, which lasted 24 years (1271-1295). Polos were not the first wayfarers - Polo words - to make it to Asia, but Polo is the one who became most famous for it. Marco Polo did not take pasta back to Venice from Chinait is one of the most famous legends out there about the adventurer, but the truth is told, pasta had made its way into the kitchen in Italy before Polo's birth. However, he introduced the term paper money, which was used in Mongolia in the 13th century, but not in Europe.*The Travels of Marco Polo'* was not written by Polo Instead, the book was written by the romantic author Rustichello from Pisa in the 13th century. The two met while in prison, where Polo dictated the stories of his travels and his adventures at the court of Kublai Khan. [Marco was a prisoner of war, having been captured in a battle between Venice and its rival city state of Genoa in 1298.] There are no longer any original copies left of the manuscript, originally called *Il Milione* (*The Million*) and published in Italian, French and Latin. The earliest remaining copies of the travel portrayal are not always consistent in detail, but remain true to the stories. Remember that the printing press was not invented until 1439, so the books were handwritten and mistakes were made. He was influential in Christopher Columbus's decision to turn out for the uncharted territoryColumbus is said to have been inspired by polo adventure and took a copy of *The Travels of Marco Polo* on his Westward sail two centuries after Polo's journey to China.He has a species of sheep named after himMany of us have spent a summer afternoon in a swimming pool playing tag game of Marco Polo but did you know that the Venetian merchant also has a species of sheep named after him? In Marco Polo's travels, he mentions observing the mountain sheep on the Pamir Plateau in Badakhshan [now northeastern Afghanistan]. The sheep, of course, were not named after him in his lifetime. The first scientific mention of *Ovis ammon polii* was in 1841 by zoologist Edward Blyth. Polo knew four languagesIn addition to his homeland Polo wrote that he knew four languages. He never elaborated which four they were, but from his writings historians have assumed that they were Mongolian, Persian, Arab and Turkish - not Chinese. Polo served as a special envoy for Khan He gave the leader useful reports from the various tours he took on his behalf across Asia. This included three years in which he served as governor of the city of Yangchow.Khan refused to let Polo leave his servicePolos finally grew homesick, but Khan valued his services so much, he refused to let them go. They were finally able to return home when they convinced him that they would be escorts for Princess Kokachin, who was to marry her great nephew, Il-Khan, who ruled Persia. The journey to Persia was dangerous, and many died, but polos arrived safely. Khan also died while on this mission, so they were able to return to Venice after the wedding. Polo was married and had a familyNot much is known about Marco Polo after he returned to Venice in 1295. It is posited that he returned to the family merchant business, but it is known that he married and had three daughters: Moretta, Fantina, and Bellela. He lived until he was 70 years old. Some think he never made it down the Silk RoadIt's those who believe that Polo never made the journey down the Silk Road to China and actually did it no longer than the Black Sea. They believe that the adventures described in his book were made of stories he heard from others along the road he was driving. It does not help his case that there were many exaggerations in Marco Polo's travels, plus that there were also interesting exclusions, such as the fact that he failed to mention the use of chopsticks to eat, or that he had seen the Great Wall of China. It also helps these naysayers that no mention of Marco Polo has been found in any historical Chinese records. On the other hand, the majority of historians are inclined to believe that Marco actually made it to China and worked in the service of Kublai Kahn, especially because of the predominance of cultural information in the book. In addition, there are those who have used his diary to trace his footsteps, and they declare the geography to be so accurate, they believe the trip happened. On his deathbed, Marco was encouraged to admit that Marco Polo's travels were a work of fiction, but to his dying breath he declared: I did not tell half of what I saw. *Marco Polo Biography* &#x2013; Explorers for Kids Note: The audio information from the video is included in the text below. *Marco Polo of Grevenbrock* Occupation: Explorer and Traveler Born: Venice, Italy in 1254 Died: January 8, 1324 Venice, Italy Best known for: European traveler to China and Far East Biography: Marco Polo was a merchant and explorer who traveled throughout the Far East and China for much of his life. His stories were the basis of what much of Europe knew about ancient China for many years. He from 1254 to 1324. Where did he grow up? Marco was born in Venice, Italy in 1254. Venice was a wealthy trading town and Marco's father was a merchant. Silk Road Silk Road referred to a number of trade routes between major cities and trade posts that went all the way from Eastern Europe to northern China. It was called Silk Road because silk cloth was the major export from China. Not many people travelled the entire route. Trading was mostly between cities or small parts of the route and products would slowly make their way from one end to the other trading hands several times. Marco Polo's father and uncle wanted to try something else. They wanted to travel all the way to China and bring the goods directly back to Venice. They thought they could make their fortune this way. It took them nine years, but they finally made it home. When does he first travel to China? Marco first went to China when he was 17 years old. He went there with his father and uncle. His father and uncle had met Mongolian Emperor Kublai Khan during their first trip to China and had told him they would return. Kublai was a leader across China at the time. Where did he book? It took Marco Polo three years to get to China. Along the way, he visited many major cities and so many places, including the holy city of Jerusalem, the mountains of the Hindu Kush, Persia and the Gobi Desert. He met many different types of people and had many adventures. Living in China Marco lived in China for many years and learned to speak the language. He traveled all over China as a messenger and spy for Kublai Khan. He even traveled far south to where Myanmar and Vietnam are today. During these visits, he learned about different cultures, food, cities and people. He saw many places and things that no one from Europe had ever seen before. Kublai Khan of Anige of Nepal Marco was fascinated by the wealth and luxury of the Chinese cities and the court of Kublai Khan. It wasn't like he had experienced in Europe. The capital Kinsay was large, but well organized and clean. Wide roads and major construction projects such as the Grand Canal were far beyond anything he had experienced at home. Everything from the food to the people to the animals, which and rhinoceros, were new and interesting. How do we know about Marco Polo? After twenty years of traveling, Marco decided with his father and uncle to return home to Venice. They left home in 1271 and eventually returned in 1295. A few years after returning home, Venice fought a war with the city of Genoa. Marco was arrested. While arrested, Marco told detailed stories about his travels to an author named Rustichello who wrote them all down in a book called *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Marco Polo's travels became a very popular book. It was translated into several languages and read throughout Europe. After the fall of Kublai Kahn, the Ming dynasty took over China. The very skeptical of foreigners and little information about China was available. This made Marco's book even more popular. Fun facts The journeys of Marco Polo were also called *Il Milione* or *The Million*. Polo has returned home in a fleet of ships that also carried a princess who was to marry a prince in Iran. The journey was dangerous and only 117 of the 700 original travelers survived. This included the princess making it safely to Iran. Some have speculated that Marco had much of his adventures. But scientists have checked his facts and believe many of them are likely true. During the time when the Mongols and Kublai Khan ruled China, merchants were able to rise up in Chinese society. During other dynasties the merchant was considered low and looked down on as parasites on the economy. Marco had to travel across the Great Gobi Desert to get to China. It took months to cross the desert, and it was said to be haunted by spirits. Activities Take a ten question quiz about this page. Listen to a recorded reading of this page: Your browser does not support the audio item. For more reading and reference see these books: Marco Polo: The Boy Who Travelled the Medieval World by Nick McCarthy, 2006. Marco Polo: A Journey Through China by Fiona MacDonald, 1997. Works cited back to biographies for children returning to the history of children back to ancient China for children

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