**The Silk Road Adventure**

**• The Silk Roads were the most important trade routes of the entire ancient world.**

****• They connected Europe in the West with China in the East with goods, ideas, technology and religions.

• The routes were created when the **Han Dynasty** of China began trading with the West in **130 BC.**

• Merchants could make huge profits, but the journey was dangerous. As protection from the weather and bandits, traders travelled in large groups and stayed overnight in hostels called **caravanserais**.

• The Silk Roads continued until **AD 1453**, when the **Ottoman Empire** conquered **Constantinople** and stopped trading with the West.

• The closure of the Silk Road forced European explorers to find new sea routes to replace over-land trade. This new "**Age of Discovery**" saw **Vasco de Gama** head East to the *Spice Islands*, and **Columbus** head West to *America* - starting a new chapter of European Empire-building…!

**Task 1**

• As you travel up and down the Silk Road, you should keep a record of what different traders are buying and selling by using this table.

• Tip: This will help you quickly decide where you need to travel to make your trades.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Venice**  | **Istanbul** | **Baghdad** | **Persepolis** | **Bukhara** | **Kashgar** | **Turpan** | **Dunhuang** | **Chengdu** | **Xian** | **Changsha** | **Quanzhou** |
| **HAS** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** |
| **WANTS** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** | **???** |

**Task 2**

• When you arrive in each of these places, make sure you record the answers to these questions.

• Warning: Your knowledge will be tested in the game, and you lose coins with incorrect answers!

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| **Aleppo** |  |
| Which dynasty took control of Aleppo in the 12th Century? |  |
| What is the name of the most famous Muslim philosopher of Aleppo? |  |
| **Baghdad** |  |
| Baghdad is the capital city of which mighty Empire? |  |
| What is the name of its famous university, housing the largest collection of books in the world? |  |
| **Basra** |  |
| Which famous explorer described Basra as renowned throughout the whole world? |  |
| What colour did Basra’s potters paint their designs with, inspiring Chinese porcelain makers to do the same? |  |
| **Bukhara** |  |
| What is the nickname of Bukhara? |  |
| Video: Who was Ibn Sina? |  |
| **Changsha** |  |
| Who was the most famous philosopher from Changsha? |  |
| Which famous dynasty rebuilt Changsha in the 15th Century? |  |
| **Chengdu** |  |
| Which country does the 'southern silk road' lead towards? |  |
| Video: How did the “Silk Mother” discover silk for the first time? |  |
| **Dunhuang** |  |
| Which mighty empire conquered (and destroyed) Dunhuang in 1227? |  |
| Which legendary Emperor rebuilt Dunhuang? |  |
| Video: What interesting features are inside the caves of Dunhuang? |  |
| **Ephesus** |  |
| Which Emperor made Ephesus the capital city of the Roman province of Asia Minor? |  |
| Who was the most famous inhabitant of Ephesus? |  |
| **Isfahan** |  |
| Which Emperor developed Isfahan into a multicultural center? |  |
| Video: Which empire tried to wipe out “Sunni” Islam and replace it with the more hardline “Shia” Islam? |  |
| **Istanbul** |  |
| What is the name of the great natural harbour at Istanbul? |  |
| Video: Who was the Roman Emperor who moved his capital city to Istanbul in 330AD? |  |
| **Kashan** |  |
| According to legend, where did the 'three wise men' come from? |  |
| Video: What is Kashan most famous for producing? |  |
| **Kashgar** |  |
| What type of city makes Kashgar such a major stopping-off point for traders on the Silk Road? |  |
| Which two Silk Roads join up in Kashgar, also making it such a thriving commercial center? |  |
| **Khotan** |  |
| Khotan is a crucial oasis city which lies on the southern edge of which vast desert? |  |
| Video: according to legend, how did Khotan get to know the secret of silk production? |  |
| **Merv** |  |
| Who described Merv – the largest city in the world – as delightful, fine, elegant, brilliant? |  |
| Although a Muslim city, Merv has large communities of Christians and which other major religion? |  |
| **Mosul** |  |
| Mosul gives its name to which fine cloth? |  |
| Ammar Al-Mawsili was one of Mosul’s finest surgeons. What did he invent? |  |
| **Persepolis** |  |
| Darius the Great founded Persepolis. He was King of Kings of which mighty Persian Empire? |  |
| What name was given to the palace built in Persepolis by Darius the Great? |  |
| Video: Why do some of the pillars in Persepolis have white marks at their base? |  |
| **Quanzhou** |  |
| What colour are the flowers on the trees which welcome visitors to Quanzhou? |  |
| With its twin pagoda towers, what is perhaps the oldest Buddhist temple in China? |  |
| **Samarkand** |  |
| Who made Samarkand his capital at the end of the 14th century? |  |
| His grandson built the greatest observatory in the world at Samarkand. What was his name? |  |
| Video: What are the main features of the ‘Timurid’ style of architecture? |  |
| **Turpan** |  |
| What was Turpan called in ancient times? |  |
| Video: What product is Turpan most famous for? |  |
| **Venice** |  |
| What was the name of the famous Venetian who wrote a book about his travels on the Silk Road? |  |
| What name is given to the leader of Venice? |  |
| Video: What can be found north of the grand canal, approaching the edge of Venice? |  |
| **Xian** |  |
| How many people lived in Xian at its peak? |  |
| Xian is home to a famous army made out of what type of material? |  |
| Video: How many lifesized statues of soldiers are in this famous army? |  |

**Extension Tasks**

• After finishing your game, produce your own “Silk Road diary”.

• Use the “View Diary” function in the game to get an overview of what happened to you, then turn this into an illustrated written piece or ‘scrapbook’ which brings your journey alive.

• Make sure you use the answers to the quiz questions to demonstrate some knowledge of the various places you visited.

• Particular credit will be given to students who have clearly conducted their own research about some of the major products mentioned in the game (e.g. indigo, gunpowder, porcelain, jade, incense, ivory…).