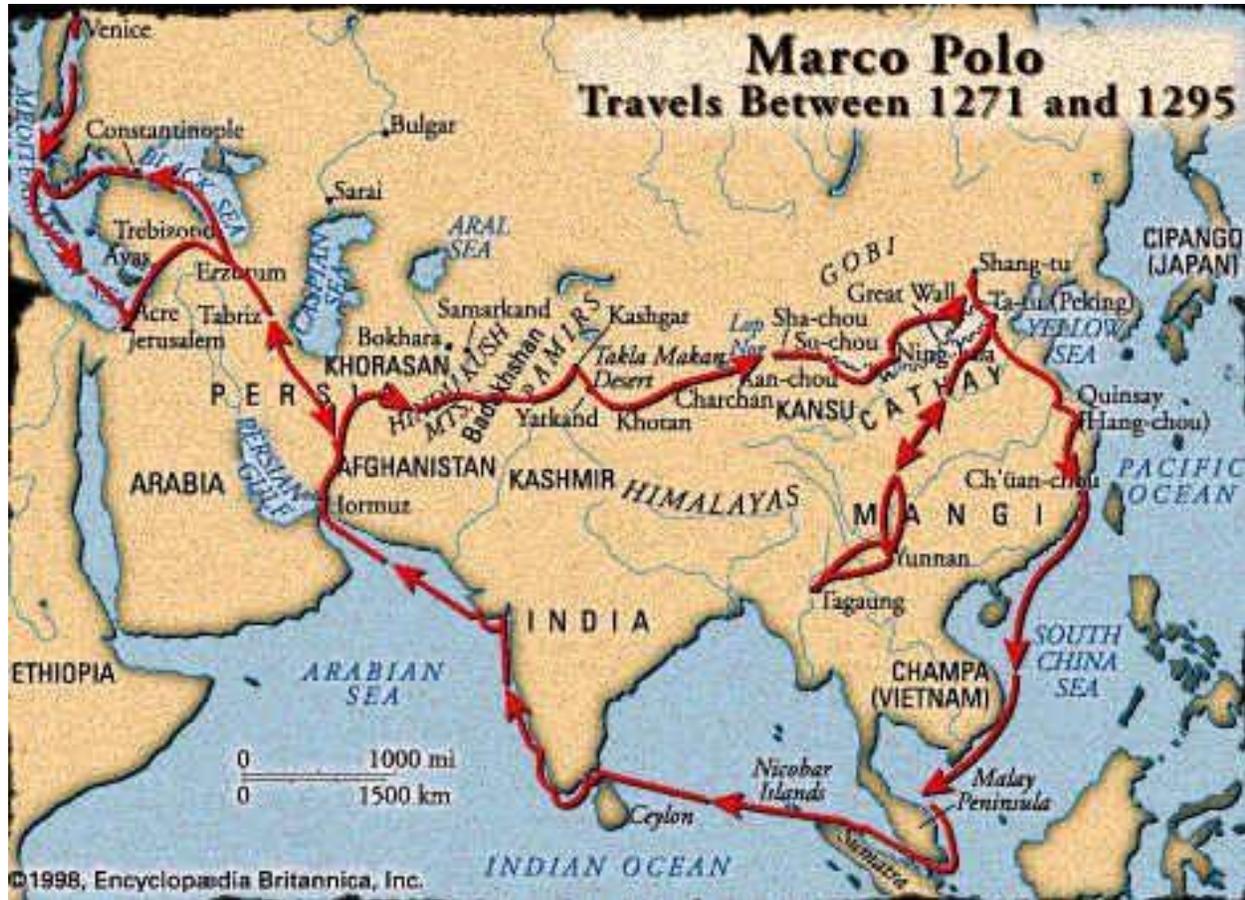


Station 1:

Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta: The Merchant and the Pilgrim

	Marco Polo 	Ibn Battuta 
Travel Basics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1271 travelled with father and uncle (merchants) to Mongol Emperor of China Kublai Khan • Returned to Italy (Venice) in 1295 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1325 traveled from home in Tangier, Morocco to begin his travels East (75,000 miles total travelled) • Returned home in 1354
Aided by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Pax Mongolia”—period of peace established by Mongol rulers in the Asian steppe lands from about 1250 to 1350 allowing safe travels • Strong control of Mongol rulers from Persia to China allowed for their safe journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 years after Polo, Battuta began—Pax Mongolia not as helpful • Hospitality and safety were provided to Muslims by a network of Muslim traders and rulers extending from Southeast Asia to the strait of Gibraltar
Insider/ Outsider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived and worked in Asia cultures whose religions and cultures were foreign to him (Polo was Christian, Catholic) • Knowledge of 4 Asian languages as well as Italian allowed him to communicate with foreigners and work as administrator for the Chinese (Mongol) emperor • Yet, still an “outsider”—which enhanced his observations and curiosity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelled primarily in Muslim-ruled lands—the Dar al-Islam [House of Islam] (Battuta was Muslim) • “Insider”—hosts accepted him as a respected Muslim jurist and student of Islamic mysticism (Sufism) • Travelled to over 60 Muslim courts (met rulers & officials)—judged behaviors in light of the Koran and precepts of Islamic law • Difference between his North Arabic culture and their native culture were not as important as their Islamic practices
Focus of their writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written with a "merchant's eye for flourishing manufactures." • About the social and economic practices of those he meets • Discussed commerce, government, and customs with some attention to the spectacular and exotic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the purity of Islamic ritual and belief in the lands he visited • More willing than was Polo to describe his own difficulties and good fortune • Much less concerned with trade, commerce, and the forms of government • <i>Rihla</i> (Arabic for Travels) described a personal journey, a pilgrimage

Journeys of Marco Polo



Journeys of Ibn Battuta

