

Investigation #3

Introduction

2/5 Quick Write:

What is another word for “trustworthy”?
Describe what this word means to you.

Another word for “trustworthy” is ...

It means...

Make Connections

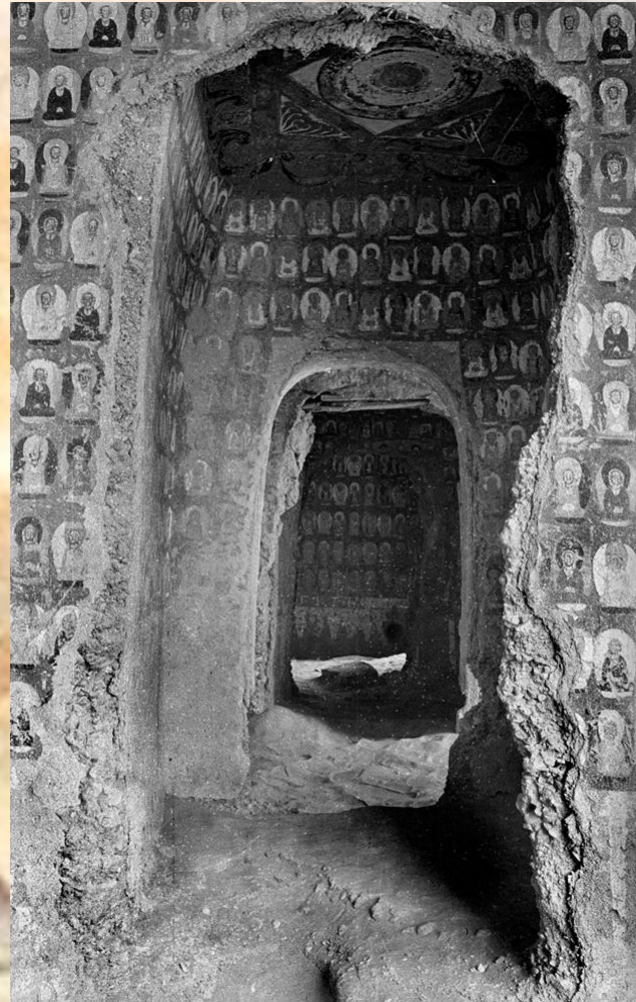
In this investigation, you will think about
why you trust someone's story.

That is, what makes someone's story believable,
trustworthy, or *reliable*?

The Ancient Silk Road



How do we know anything about the Silk Road?



1. Documents & Artifacts

We know about the Silk Road from documents and artifacts.

Most were found on recycled scrap paper and in the Cave Temples of Dunhuang.

Attribution: From The Silk Road: A New History with Documents (2017) by Dr. Valerie Hansen, Professor at Yale University.

Cave Temples of Dunhuang

- Travelers heading west on the Silk Road could rest in the *oasis* town of Dunhuang
- Get more supplies before going through either the Gobi Desert or the Taklamakan Desert



Cave Temples of Dunhuang

- After the Han Dynasty (220 CE), Buddhist monks dug caves & built shrines
- Caves became storage units



The Cave Temples of Dunhuang



Attribution: University of Pennsylvania Museum website. Accessed at: <https://www.penn.museum/documents/publications/expedition/PDFs/52-3/waugh.pdf>

The Cave Temples of Dunhuang - Modern Day



Attribution: *Overview of Mogao Grottoes* in Dunhuang, China. Accessed at:http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions_events/exhibitions/cave_temples_dunhuang/gall

The Cave Temples of Dunhuang - Modern Day



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The Cave Temples of Dunhuang



The Cave Temples of Dunhuang



Attribution: Cave 85, View of the Interior. Late Tang Dynasty (848-907 CE). Accessed

http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions_events/exhibitions/cave_temples_dunhuang/gallery.html

The Cave Temples of Dunhuang



The Cave Temples of Dunhuang



Attribution: *Tribute Horse and Camel*, ca. 900-1000 CE. Accessed at:http://www.getty.edu/research/exhibitions_events/exhibitions/cave_temples_dunhuang/gallery.html

Turn & Talk

How
else do
we
know
anything
about
the Silk
Road?

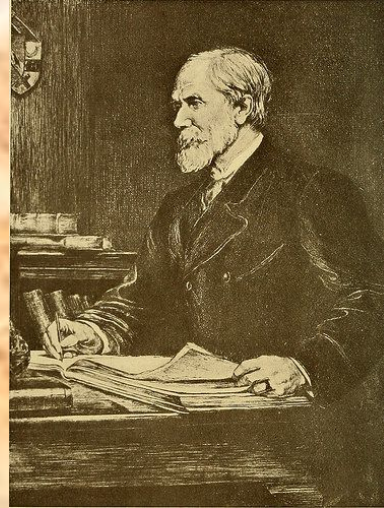


Attribution: Abraham Cresques, 1375 held at the *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*. Accessed at: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41309380>

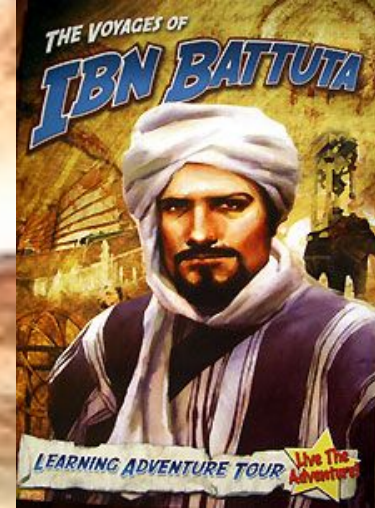
Travelers



Marco Polo



Francesco Pegolotti



Ibn Battuta

We also know about the Silk Road from travelers. People from Europe and North Africa told stories of their travels along the Silk Road to China. Their stories were written down.

Historians



Statue of Ma Duanlin- historian from ancient China

- Writings by ancient historians tell us about the Silk Road

Types of Sources

- **Intentional Sources:** the author meant for them to be read!
 - Ex: Marco Polo's travelogue, Ma Duanlin's encyclopedia
- **Unintentional Sources:** the author did not expect others to read them
 - Ex: words written on a paper shoe, notes from monks, a phrasebook for travelers

WHICH DO YOU THINK ARE MORE RELIABLE? WHICH ARE MORE INTERESTING? WHY?

Our Central Question

Which sources are most reliable for learning about the ancient Silk Road?

Our Assignment

The [Silk Road Ensemble](#) is a musical group that uses instruments and plays music from the Silk Road.

They perform often at the [Freer|Sackler galleries](#) of Asian art, part of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.



KINAN AZMEH



BILL BARCLAY



JEFFREY BEECHER



DAN BRANTIGAN



LAYALE CHAKER



SHAWN CONLEY

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RESONANCE: ANCIENT BELLS OF CHINA



THE PEACOCK ROOM IN BLUE AND WHITE



A GLIMPSE OF ANCIENT YEMEN

Our Assignment

The museum is planning a pop-up exhibit that they'll put up when the Silk Road Ensemble performs.

They have sent their argument for using all four sources in the exhibit. *Do they have a strong argument for using all four sources to teach about the Silk Road?*

Read the four sources carefully and think about whether they are all useful for teaching about the Silk Road. Then read the Freer | Sackler gallery's letter and write a critique of any problems in their argument.

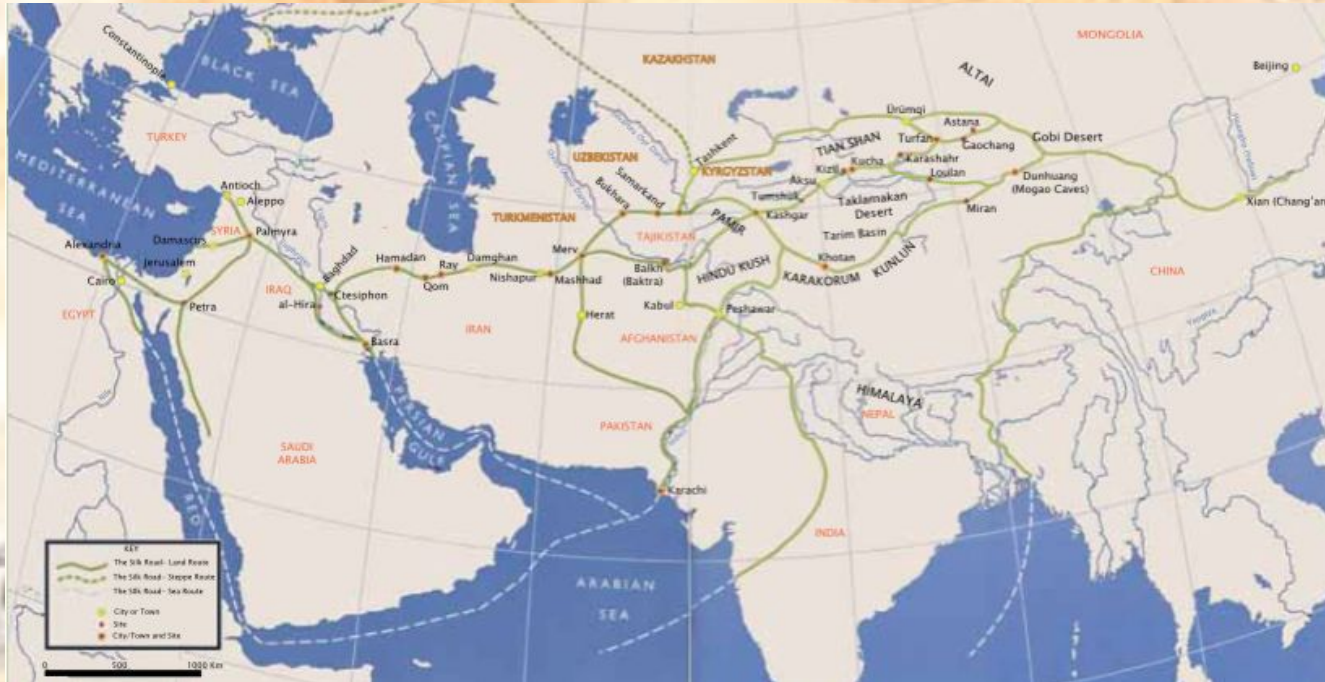
Box #2

2. According to the maps and timelines, what was the Silk Road?

- What major regions did the Silk Road connect?
- How long ago did the ancient Silk Road exist?
- For how many years did the ancient Silk Road exist?
- List the dynasties or empires that controlled parts of the Silk Road between 600-1300 CE:

Silk Road – Where?

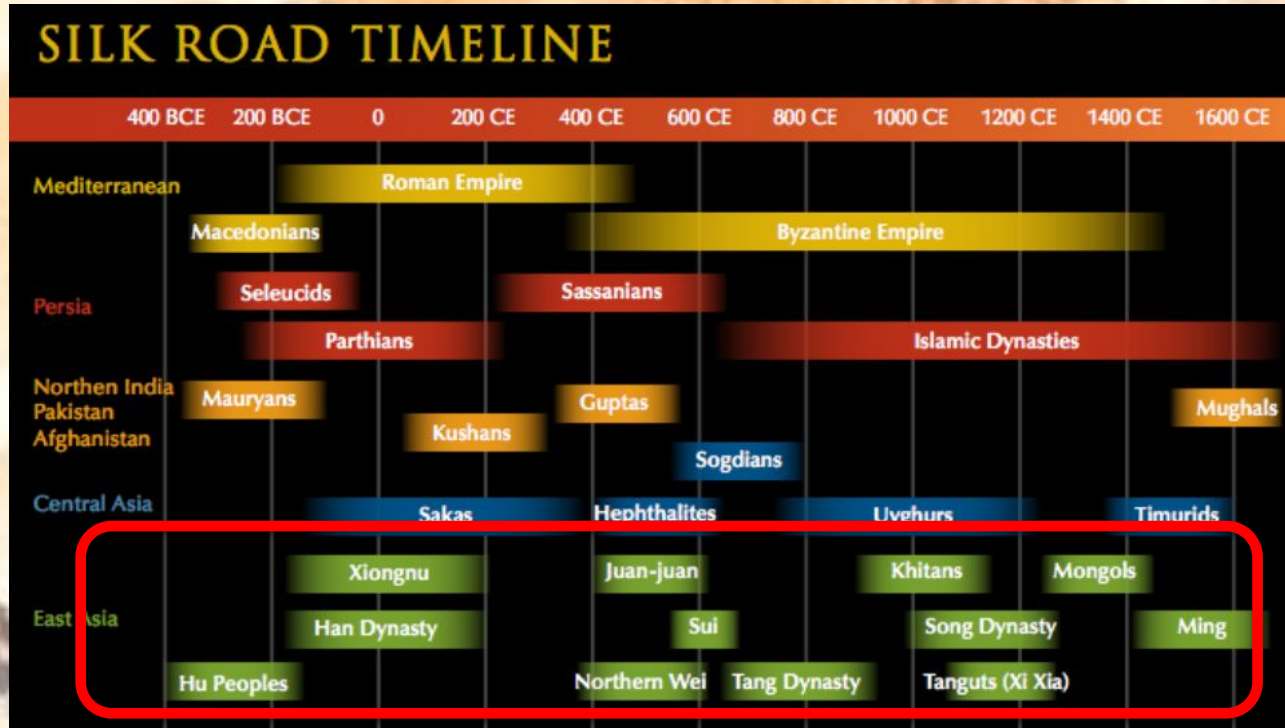
- Ancient land and sea trading routes which connected Europe, North Africa, and Asia



Attribution: University of Pennsylvania Museum website. Accessed at:
<https://www.penn.museum/documents/publications/expedition/PDFs/52-3/waugh.pdf>

Silk Road – When?

- Existed from 200 BCE – 1400 CE

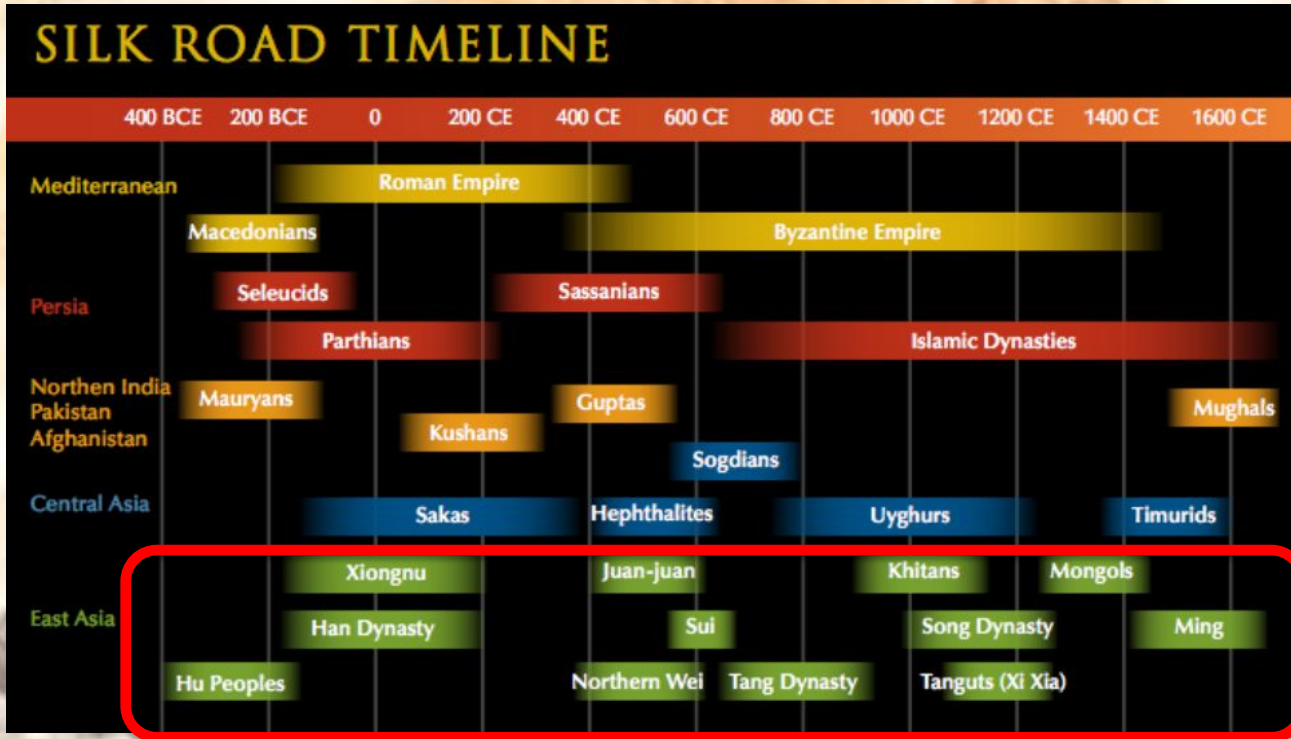


Attribution: Univ. of Pennsylvania Museum website. Accessed at:

<http://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-silk-road-chronology-of-selected-travelers/>

Silk Road – When?

- Existed for 1600 years



Attribution: Univ. of Pennsylvania Museum website. Accessed at:

<http://www.penn.museum/sites/expedition/the-silk-road-chronology-of-selected-travelers/>

Our focus: The Silk Road in different cities, at different points in time

THE STORY OF CHINA About the Series **Timeline** **Map** Videos Photos Interactive Features In the Classroom Buy the DVD


Intro **Early China** Tang Dynasty Song Dynasty Ming Dynasty Qing Dynasty Modern China

Map

Early China
ca. 5000 BCE–589 CE

The shaded area shows the approximate extent of the Shang dynasty. Be sure to also [explore the Timeline](#) to see how the locations fit into the history of China.

[f](#) [t](#) [e](#) [s](#)

[Click Here for All-Natural](#) 

The map displays a shaded region in northern China representing the Shang dynasty's extent. Several blue location pins are placed across the region, including Urumqi, Beijing, Tianjin, Jinan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Wuhan, and Shanghai. The map also shows neighboring countries like Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and parts of Central Asia.

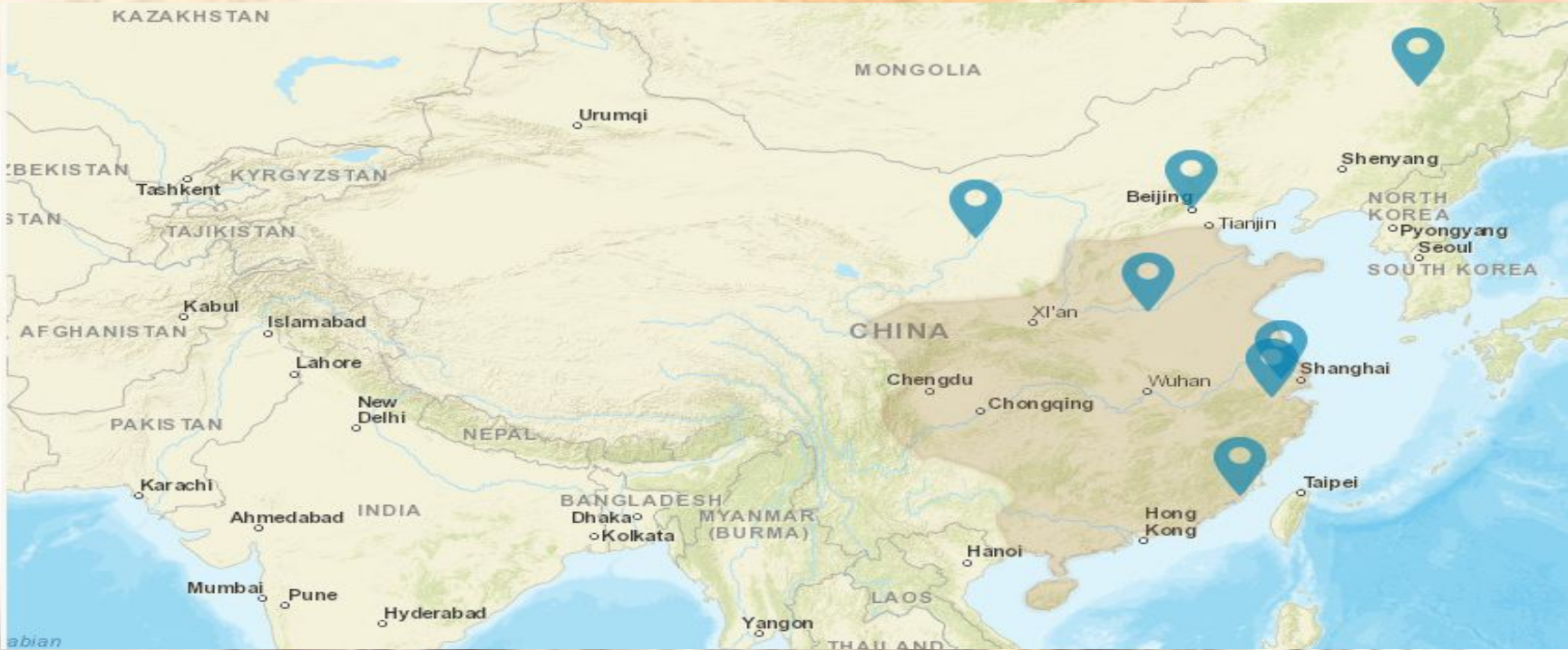
[\(click on image to access interactive maps from PBS\)](#)

Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)



Attribution: PBS, The Story of China. Accessed at: <http://www.pbs.org/story-china/map/#/map/tang>

Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE)



Attribution: PBS, The Story of China. Accessed at: <http://www.pbs.org/story-china/map/#/map/song>

Mongol Empire, 1279-1368 (also known as the Yuan Dynasty)



Attribution: Accessed at:

<http://history.stackexchange.com/questions/15271/what-prevented-the-mongolian-empire-from-expanding-into-europe>

Box #3

3. According to the video, what was the Silk Road?

- What words did you hear in the video that help you describe the Silk Road?
- What kinds of goods were traded on the Silk Road?
- What else was passed along between people on the Silk Road?



Video: What was the Silk Road?



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