



# “Marco Polo”

## Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

Marco Polo was born in 1254 in the Venetian Republic. The city of Venice, Italy was at the center of the Venetian Republic. When he was 17 years old, he went to China with his father, Niccolo, and his uncle, Maffeo. Pope Gregory X sent them to visit Kublai Khan, the **emperor** of China. Kublai Khan liked Marco Polo. He enjoyed Marco Polo’s stories about many lands. Kublai Khan gave Marco Polo a job. He sent Polo on diplomatic missions. He also made him governor of Yangzhou, an important trading city.

When Marco Polo went back to the Venetian Republic, he talked about his life in China. Few believed his stories. In 1298, he went to jail during a war between Venice and Genoa. While he was a **prisoner** in jail, he **dictated** his stories about China to another man in jail. The man wrote down the stories. The stories became the book, “The Travels of Marco Polo.” Each chapter of the book covers a **specific** region of China. Each chapter is about the military, farming, religion, and culture of a certain area. The book was **translated** into many languages.

Marco Polo got out of jail in 1299. He went back to Venice to join his father and uncle. He became very rich. In 1300 he got married, and he and his wife had three children. Marco Polo died in 1324. He was almost 70 years old.

### Questions:

1) Who did Marco Polo visit in China?

- A. Niccolo
- B. Maffeo
- C. Pope Gregory X
- D. Kublai Khan

2) In China, Marco Polo worked as a...

- A. storyteller.
- B. governor.
- C. writer.
- D. trader.

3) Who wrote down Marco Polo’s stories?

- A. His father
- B. His uncle
- C. A prisoner
- D. The emperor

4) When did Marco Polo go to jail?

- A. 1298
- B. 1299
- C. 1300
- D. 1324

5) There was a war between...

- A. Italy and China.
- B. China and Venice.
- C. Venice and Genoa.
- D. Yangzhou and Genoa.

### Vocabulary:

1) An **emperor** is a...

- A. king.
- B. queen.
- C. trader.
- D. missionary.

2) A **prisoner** is a person who...

- A. does not believe something.
- B. is not allowed to leave.
- C. takes care of a city.
- D. writes books.

3) What is another word for **dictated**?

- A. Read
- B. Told
- C. Sold
- D. Wrote



4) **Specific** means...

- A. rich.
- B. certain.
- C. married.
- D. important.

5) What is another way to say **translated**?

- A. Printed in a book
- B. Written down as a story
- C. Changed to a different language
- D. None of the above.