

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Class _____

The Travels of Ser Marco Polo

Directions: Examine each of the excerpts from Marco Polo's accounts of his travels, and answer the questions below.

Book II: Chapter 24

1. According to Marco Polo, how was money minted in Yuan Dynasty China under Mongol rule?
2. How was this system different from the type of money used among Europeans at the time?
3. How did Kublai Khan make sure that everyone used his money? Do you think that was necessary? Explain.
4. The *Secret of Alchemy that Polo mentions refers to the sought after ability to turn lead, or other worthless material, into gold. Why does he say that Kublai Khan has discovered the Secret of Alchemy?

Book II: Chapter 8

5. According to Marco Polo, what does Kublai Khan look like?
6. Why do you think the wives needed so many servants?
7. Why did the Emperor have older ladies sleep next to his potential concubines before accepting?

8. What is your opinion of Kublai Khan after reading this?

Book II: Chapter 22

9. Why were all dead bodies taken outside the city limits? What was the benefit of this practice?

10. Why were some bodies buried and some cremated?

11. Why does Marco Polo say that the number of “public women” prove that there is a large population in general?

12. How were people punished for misdemeanors? Why was it done this way?

13. What fabric was most often used in China? Why would they use this fabric over any other?

Summary

14. How is Marco Polo similar to Ibn Battuta? Give two examples.

15. Do you think Kublai Khan was a good ruler? Why or why not?