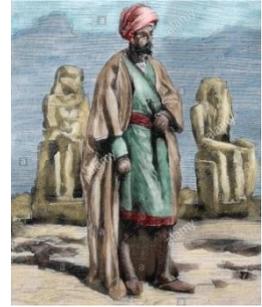


Ibn Battuta

Who Was Ibn Battuta?

Ibn Battuta came from Morocco in Africa. He was born on 24 February 1304. He died in 1368.



When did he start travelling?

When Ibn Battuta was 21, he went to Mecca for the first time. He went on a pilgrimage (the hajj) because he was a Muslim and this was important to him.

Where else did he go?

When he was older, he went to **Iraq** and **Iran** then to **Somalia** and **Tanzania** in West Africa. He lived in **India** for 6 years and worked as a judge before he went to **China** and **Indonesia**. His last trip was to **Spain** and then across the **Sahara Desert** to **Mali**.

What happened to him?

In Oman, someone tried to rob him and Ibn Battuta had defend himself with a spear. When he lived in India, he made the Sultan cross and was locked up. In China, he sailed down the longest canal in the world. He went to Spain to help people fight against the King. In Africa, he saw a hippopotamus.

Why is he important?

He travelled 117,000km and wrote a book about his travels and adventures.

Reading task – can you answer these questions?

- 1) When did Ibn Battuta live?
- 2) Where did Ibn Battuta go on his travels? Can you find these places on a map or globe?
- 3) Why did Ibn Battuta use boats and horses to carry him?
- 4) Why is today a good day to learn about Ibn Battuta?
- 5) Can you draw a picture of something Ibn Battuta did or saw?

Challenge Task

Imagine you were exploring with Ibn Battuta. Write a postcard home about what you might have seen or done.