

Ibn Battuta



Ibn Battuta was born Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta on 25th February, 1304. He was a Muslim born in Tangier, Morocco and was a well-educated man and a traveller.

At the age of 21, Ibn Battuta set off on his first hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca. This is an important journey for Muslims.

The journey should have taken 16 months. Ibn Battuta did not go back home for 24 years!

A Long Journey

He usually joined a caravan on his travels. This meant that he was part of a larger group of travellers. People travelled in large groups so that there was less chance of being robbed.

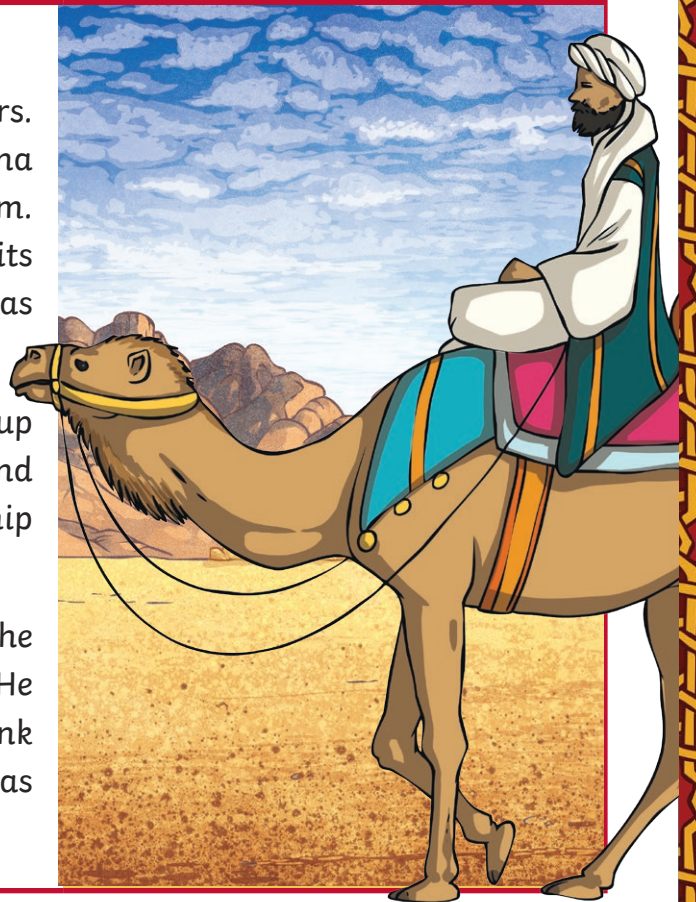
Battuta spent four days in Mecca and decided that, instead of trying to join them again, after his pilgrimage, he would carry on his journey to India.

Disaster

Battuta stayed in India for six years. Then, a group of travellers from China came by and asked Battuta to join them. He agreed, but on the journey, bandits attacked the travellers. Ibn Battuta was robbed and nearly lost his life.

Ibn Battuta caught up with the group ten days later, but a storm blew up and sank one of their ships. The other ship sailed without him.

Instead, Ibn Battuta went to the Maldives, but left after nine months. He was unhappy because he did not think the women dressed properly. This was against his religion.



Back Home

In 1348, Ibn Battuta travelled to Damascus in Syria, where he heard that his father had died 15 years before, back in Morocco.

In 1349, he finally returned to Tangier in Morocco. Here, he discovered his mother had died just a few months before.

Not much is known about his life after he arrived home and he died in 1368.



Travels

Ibn Battuta didn't keep notes during his travels, but told his friend, Ibn Juzayy, all about his adventures. Ibn Juzayy wrote them all down in a book called the *Rihla* which means 'the travels'. The book has helped people understand how Islam spread throughout the world.



Questions

1. Tick the true facts about Ibn Battuta.

- He was from Morocco.
- He was a Christian.
- He liked to go on journeys.
- He left home for 21 years.

2. Complete this sentence:

People travelled in large groups _____

3. Where did Battuta go after he was in Mecca?

4. Match up the sentences:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| On the way to China, | because he did not like how the women dressed. |
| A storm blew up | he was robbed and nearly died. |
| Ibn Battuta left the Maldives | and sank one of the ships. |

5. Choose another word which closely matches the meaning of 'bandits'.

Put a circle around your choice.

travellers

merchants

robbers

6. Where was Battuta when he heard about his father's death?

7. How do we know about Ibn Battuta's travels? Tick one answer.

- He wrote notes on his travels.
- He told a friend who wrote a book about it.
- He wrote about it himself.

8. Complete this sentence:

The book about Ibn Battuta's travels has helped people know

Answers

1. Tick the true facts about Ibn Battuta.

- He was from Morocco.
- He was a Christian.
- He liked to go on journeys.
- He left home for 21 years.

2. Complete this sentence:

People travelled in large groups **so that there was less chance of being robbed.**

3. Where did Battuta go after he was in Mecca?

Battuta went to India after he was in Mecca.

4. Match up the sentences:

On the way to China, ~~because he did not like how the women dressed.~~

A storm blew up ~~he was robbed and nearly died.~~

Ibn Battuta left the Maldives ~~and sank one of the ships.~~

5. Choose another word which closely matches the meaning of 'bandits'.

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6. Where was Battuta when he heard about his father's death?

Battuta was in Damascus when he heard about his father's death.

7. How do we know about Ibn Battuta's travels? Tick one answer.

- He wrote notes on his travels.
- He told a friend who wrote a book about it.
- He wrote about it himself.

8. Complete this sentence:

The book about Ibn Battuta's travels has helped people know **how Islam spread throughout the world.**

Ibn Battuta



Ibn Battuta was born Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta on 25th February, 1304. He was a Muslim born in Tangier, Morocco and was a man of learning and a traveller. The family he was born into were traditionally legal specialists, so Ibn Battuta was educated in Islamic law.

At the age of 21, Ibn Battuta set off on his first hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca. This is an important journey for Muslims.

The journey should have taken 16 months. Ibn Battuta did not return home for 24 years!

A Long Journey

He usually joined a caravan on his travels. This meant that he was part of a larger group of travellers in order to guard against being robbed on the way.

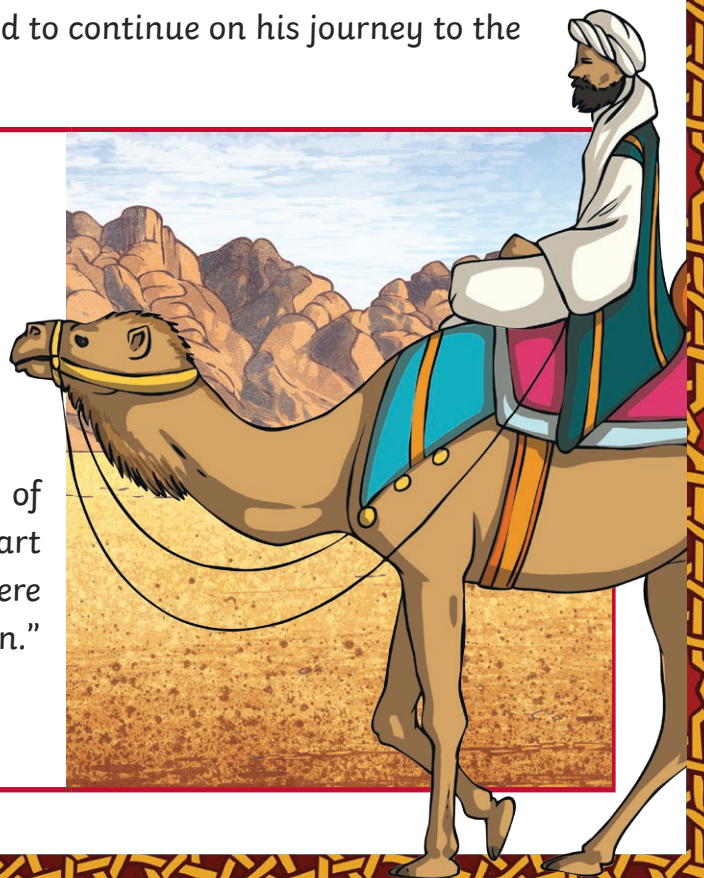
Before Ibn Battuta arrived in Mecca, he spent the month of Ramadan in Damascus, then joined a caravan to Medina to see the site of the Prophet Muhammad's tomb. Muhammad was the founder of Islam.

After four days, Battuta continued to Mecca. Instead of returning home after his pilgrimage, Ibn Battuta decided to continue on his journey to the north-east of India.

Alone

"I set out alone, having neither fellow-traveller in whose companionship I might find cheer.

My parents, being yet in the bonds of life, it weighed sorely upon me to part from them, and both they and I were afflicted with sorrow at this separation."



Disaster!

He spent six years in Hansi in India. When a group of travellers from China arrived asking for Battuta's help to build a Buddhist temple in China, he agreed and left with them. On the journey, bandits attacked the travellers. Ibn Battuta was robbed and nearly lost his life.

Ten days later, Ibn Battuta caught up with the group but while he visited a mosque, a storm blew up and sank one of their ships. The other ship sailed without him.

As a result, Ibn Battuta went to the Maldives but left after nine months.

He was unhappy with how the women in the Maldives were allowed to dress. He felt it was too revealing, which was against the rules of Islam.



Back Home

In 1348, Ibn Battuta travelled to Damascus in Syria where he heard that back in Morocco, his father had died 15 years earlier.

On his way home, he made a trip to Sardinia and in 1349, he finally returned to Tangier in Morocco. Here, he discovered that his mother had died just a few months before.

Battuta went on more travels but finally returned to Morocco in 1355 where he was appointed as a judge. Not much is known about this time of his life and he died in 1368.

Travels

Ibn Battuta didn't keep notes during his travels but recounted his adventures to Ibn Juzayy, an intelligent man he had met years before.

Ibn Juzayy wrote the *Rihla* which means 'the travels'.

The book has helped people understand how Islam spread throughout the world.



Questions

1. Which sentence most accurately describes Ibn Battuta? Tick one answer.

- He was a man born into a Christian family who all studied law.
- He was a Moroccan Muslim who studied law.
- He was a man of learning who avoided travelling.
- He was a Muslim born in Tangier in 1305.

2. Why did Ibn Battuta go to Mecca?

3. How did his parents feel about him leaving? Tick one answer.

- They were happy he was going on an adventure.
- They were worried about his safety.
- They were very sad about him leaving.

4. Match up the sentences:

He joined a caravan

to see Prophet Muhammad's tomb.

He went to Medina

he went to India.

After leaving Mecca,

to avoid being robbed on the journey.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning "He spent six years..." to the paragraph ending "...sailed without him." What impressions of the journey to China do you get from each of these two paragraphs?

6. Write two things that you are told about his trip to the Maldives.

7. Find and copy one word which suggests he did not know his mother had died.

8. Tick the true answer.

When he returned to Tangier, Ibn Battuta became...

a teacher.

a scholar.

a judge.

9. Explain what the title of the book written about his adventures is and its meaning.

10. Tick the true answer.

The book has meant that:

people know about Ibn Battuta.

people have a better understanding of how Islam reached other countries.

people understood which countries are where in the world.

Answers

1. Which sentence most accurately describes Ibn Battuta? Tick one answer.

- He was a man born into a Christian family who all studied law.
- He was a Moroccan Muslim who studied law.
- He was a man of learning who avoided travelling.
- He was a Muslim born in Tangier in 1305.

2. Why did Ibn Battuta go to Mecca?

Ibn Battuta went to Mecca because it is an important pilgrimage for Muslims.

3. How did his parents feel about him leaving? Tick one answer.

- They were happy he was going on an adventure.
- They were worried about his safety.
- They were very sad about him leaving.

4. Match up the sentences:

He joined a caravan	to see Prophet Muhammad's tomb.
He went to Medina	he went to India.
After leaving Mecca,	to avoid being robbed on the journey.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning "He spent six years..." to the paragraph ending "...sailed without him." What impressions of the journey to China do you get from each of these two paragraphs?

It was dangerous because he was robbed and nearly died.

It was a bad time because the ship sailed without him after a storm.

6. Write two things that you are told about his trip to the Maldives.

He only stayed for 9 months.

He left because he did not like the way that the women dressed.

7. Find and copy one word which suggests he did not know his mother had died.

discovered

8. Tick the true answer.

When he returned to Tangier, Ibn Battuta became...

a teacher.

a scholar.

a judge.

9. Explain what the title of the book written about his adventures is and its meaning.

The book was called the Rihla and means the 'travels'.

10. Tick the true answer.

The book has meant that:

people know about Ibn Battuta.

people have a better understanding of how Islam reached other countries.

people understood which countries are where in the world.

Ibn Battuta



Ibn Battuta was born Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta on 25th February, 1304. He was a Muslim born in Tangier, Morocco and was a scholar and traveller. The family he was born into were of Berber origin and were traditionally legal scholars, so Ibn Battuta was educated in Islamic law.

At the age of 21, Ibn Battuta embarked on his first hajj, or pilgrimage, to Mecca. This is a journey of much significance for Muslims.

The journey should have taken 16 months. Ibn Battuta did not return home for 24 years!

A Long Journey

He usually joined a caravan on his travels. This meant that he was part of a larger group of travellers so that there was safety from bandits and robbers on the land.

Before Ibn Battuta arrived in Mecca, he spent the month of Ramadan in Damascus, then joined a caravan to Medina to see the site of the prophet Muhammad's tomb.

After four days, Battuta continued to Mecca. Instead of returning home from his pilgrimage, Ibn Battuta decided to continue on his journey to the north-east of India.

Alone

Ibn Battuta wrote;
"I set out alone, having neither fellow-traveller in whose companionship I might find cheer.

My parents, being yet in the bonds of life, it weighed sorely upon me to part from them, and both they and I were afflicted with sorrow at this separation."



Disaster!

He spent six years in Hansi in India. The sultan of Hansi made it difficult for Ibn Battuta to leave so when a group of travellers from China arrived, asking for Battuta's help to build a Buddhist temple in China, he agreed and left with them. On the journey, bandits attacked the travellers. Ibn Battuta was robbed and nearly lost his life.

Ten days later, Ibn Battuta caught up with the group, but while visiting a mosque, a storm blew up and sank one of their ships. The other ship sailed without him.

He took a detour to the Maldives but left after nine months. He was unhappy with how the women in the Maldives were allowed to dress, which was against Islamic rules.

Back Home

In 1348, Ibn Battuta travelled to Damascus in Syria where he heard that back in Tangier, his father had died 15 years earlier.

On his way home, he made one last detour to Sardinia and in 1349, he finally returned to Tangier, Morocco. Here he discovered his mother had died just a few months before.

Battuta went on more travels but finally returned to Morocco in 1355, where he was appointed as a judge. Not much is known about this time of his life and he died in 1368.

Through the years of travel, Battuta married and divorced a number of times and had children, though there is no indication he stayed with any of them or helped bring them up.

Critics do not believe he visited all the places he said he had, mainly due to the timescales he gave. Some people think he copied other written accounts of travellers' experiences and made it seem like they were his own.

Whatever the truth is, he certainly travelled a lot and through his book, helped people understand how Islam spread throughout the world.

Travels

Battuta didn't keep a journal during his travels, but recounted his adventures to Ibn Juzayy, a scholar he had met years before. Juzayy wrote the *Rihla*, which means 'the travels'.



Questions

1. Write three facts about Ibn Battuta.

2. Which word closely matches the meaning of 'embarked'. Circle your choice.

climbed

began

mission

adventure

3. Look at this sentence "...it weighed sorely upon me to part from them, and both they and I were afflicted with sorrow at this separation." Give two impressions this gives you about Ibn Battuta's decision to leave.

4. Describe what joining a caravan meant.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning "He spent six years in Hansi in India."
What opportunity arose, giving Battuta the chance to leave?

6. Identify two problems that Battuta encountered.

Answers

1. Write three facts about Ibn Battuta.

Ibn Battuta was Muslim/named Abu Abdullah Muhammad Ibn Battuta/born on 25th February 1304/born in Tangier, Morocco/family of Berber origin/he was educated in Islamic law.

2. Which word closely matches the meaning of 'embarked'. Circle your choice.

climbed

began

mission

adventure

3. Look at this sentence "...it weighed sorely upon me to part from them, and both they and I were afflicted with sorrow at this separation." Give two impressions this gives you about Ibn Battuta's decision to leave.

that Ibn Battuta was sad/upset/found it hard to leave his parents.

that his parents found it difficult, him leaving/were very sad/full of sorrow.

4. Describe what joining a caravan meant.

Joining a caravan means that people travelled in large groups together so there was safety from being attacked by robbers and bandits on land.

5. Look at the paragraph beginning "He spent six years in Hansi in India."

What opportunity arose, giving Battuta the chance to leave?

A group of travellers from China came to Hansi in India and asked Battuta to help them build a Buddhist temple in China. This gave him chance to leave.

6. Identify two problems that Battuta encountered.

The group that Battuta was travelling with were attacked by robbers and he was nearly killed. Then, a storm blew up and sank one of the ships. The other ship sailed away without him.

7. Place these sentences in the correct order.

3 Battuta found out that his mother had died a few months before.

4 Battuta became a judge.

1 Battuta travelled to Damascus and was told his father had died.

2 Battuta returned to Morocco.

8. Look at the paragraph beginning “Through the years of travel...” to the paragraph ending “...like they were his own”.

What impressions do you get of Ibn Battuta and how his adventures have been received by some people?

Answers will vary.

9. Explain how we know about his travels.

We know about his travels because he told a fellow scholar, Ibn Juzayy, who then wrote down all the adventures in a book called the Rihla, which means ‘the travels’.

10. What are your general thoughts about Ibn Battuta?

Answers will vary.