

## Silk Road Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Silk Road trivia explores the merchants, empires, goods, and ideas that moved along the interconnected trade networks spanning Eurasia and beyond. From silk and spices to religion, technology, and disease, the Silk Road shaped world history in ways that still resonate today. Expect a mix of accessible, family-friendly, funny, and challenging questions grounded in the history of cross-cultural exchange.

### HARD SILK ROAD TRIVIA

1. Which Han envoy's westward mission in the 2nd century BCE significantly expanded Chinese awareness of Inner Asia?

Answer: Zhang Qian

2. The 2014 UNESCO Silk Roads listing was submitted jointly by which three countries?

Answer: China, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan

3. How many component sites are included in the Chang'an-Tianshan World Heritage corridor?

Answer: 33 component sites

4. In what year was the Nestorian Stele erected in Xi'an?

Answer: 781 CE

5. Which French scholar is especially known for work on manuscripts from Dunhuang?

Answer: Paul Pelliot

6. The dated Dunhuang copy of the Diamond Sutra carries what printed year?

Answer: 868 CE

7. Which people were displaced in Inner Asia before the rise of the Kushan Empire?

Answer: Yuezhi

8. What empire linked northern India, Afghanistan, and Central Asia in Silk Road exchange?

Answer: Kushan Empire

9. Finds near Dunhuang known as the 'Ancient Letters' are associated with which people and date to the early 4th century CE?

Answer: Sogdian letters

10. Near which oasis region are the Bezeklik Thousand Buddha Caves located?

Answer: Near Turfan

11. Which ancient kingdom near Lop Nur declined after its water systems shifted?

Answer: Loulan

12. What Gansu passage served as a crucial route between the Chinese heartland and Central Asia?

Answer: Hexi Corridor

13. Which major highland knot connected routes between Central and South Asia?

Answer: Pamirs

14. Whose empire helped unify large stretches of Inner Asia in the early 13th century?

Answer: Genghis Khan

#### FUNNY SILK ROAD TRIVIA

1. If a traveler showed up expecting the Silk Road to be literally tiled in luxury fabric, what basic disappointment would history deliver?

Answer: It was not paved with silk.

2. A caravanserai was basically the Silk Road version of what handy travel stop for a camel convoy?

Answer: A roadside inn for camel caravans.

3. On many inland Silk Road routes, which camel had the deluxe two-bump package?

Answer: The Bactrian camel.

4. Which camel, common in Arabia, went with the minimalist one-hump design?

Answer: The dromedary camel.

5. The Taklamakan was not a cute little sandbox. It is often described as one of the world's largest what?

Answer: Sandy deserts.

6. Silk did not come from a tree, a mine, or a very patient cloud. It is made from what?

Answer: The cocoons of silkworms.

7. Writers in which ancient society grumbled that people were spending too much on Chinese silk?

Answer: Ancient Rome.

8. Pepper was so prized that people gave it a dramatic nickname worthy of a treasure chest. What was it?

Answer: Black gold.

9. Because bandits existed and did not respect shipping schedules, merchants sometimes traveled with what added protection?

Answer: Armed escorts.

10. Which set names pack animals actually used on Silk Road routes?

Answer: Horses, mules, donkeys, and camels.

11. Before group chats, caravans had a simpler way to help animals keep together on long trips. What was it?

Answer: Caravan bells.

12. True or false: Most Silk Road traders personally hauled their goods from one end of the route all the way to the other.?

Answer: False

13. If you were crossing desert country, why could an oasis feel less like scenery and more like a miracle with a ZIP code?

Answer: Because it provided water, fodder, and shade.

#### FUN SILK ROAD TRIVIA

1. Which ancient Chinese star map sounds like it belongs in a treasure hunt but is actually one of the oldest known star atlases from China?

Answer: The Dunhuang Star Chart.

2. What monument in Xi'an records the presence of Christianity in Tang China?

Answer: The Nestorian Stele.

3. Who was the early translator busy turning Buddhist texts into Chinese in the 2nd century?

Answer: An Shigao.

4. Faxian's travel writing is known by what title?

Answer: A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms.

5. Which 13th-century traveler from the Mongol world made it all the way to Europe?

Answer: Rabban Bar Sauma.

6. What Greek-Roman text describes trade in the Indian Ocean world?

Answer: The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea.

7. When Sima Qian wrote about lands to China's west, what term did he use?

Answer: Western Regions.

8. Which 9th-century writer mentioned long-distance trade routes in his work?

Answer: Ibn Khordadbeh.

9. What name is given to the period of relative stability across much of Eurasia under Mongol rule?

Answer: The Pax Mongolica.

10. True or false: Under Tang rule, Chang'an was among the world's largest cities.?

Answer: True

11. Which vivid blue stone from Afghanistan traveled long distances across Asia?

Answer: Lapis lazuli.

12. Goods from which broader region are named in the fact that glassware reached China through exchange networks?

Answer: The West Asian world.

13. To dodge the Taklamakan's sandy mood swings, Silk Road traffic split into what two branches around the desert rim?

Answer: Northern and southern branches.

#### SILK ROAD FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which famous Venetian traveler is linked with journeys across Asia?

Answer: Marco Polo

2. Marco Polo had an uncle mentioned in Silk Road history. Who was he?

Answer: Maffeo Polo

3. The Silk Road linked many regions. Which one was part of that network: East Asia or Antarctica?

Answer: East Asia

4. When merchants crossed dry lands, what kind of stopping places were especially important?

Answer: oasis towns

5. Which camel, famous for its two humps, was well suited to inland Asian caravan routes?

Answer: Bactrian camel

6. China sent silk westward. Which item was among the goods it received in return?

Answer: glassware

7. Which Central Asian city became one of the best-known Silk Road centers?

Answer: Samarkand

8. Near the western edge of the Tarim Basin stood which Silk Road city?

Answer: Kashgar

9. In Kyrgyzstan, what is the name of the well-known stone caravanserai on a former trade route?

Answer: Tash Rabat

10. Besides moving goods, the Silk Road also helped spread what between distant cultures?

Answer: artistic styles

11. Which treasured stone from Central and Inner Asia was prized in China?

Answer: jade

12. For safety on the road, Silk Road merchants often traveled in what way?

Answer: groups

#### EASY SILK ROAD TRIVIA

1. What major world region did the Silk Road link China with?

Answer: The Mediterranean world.

2. Which luxury fabric gave the Silk Road its famous name?

Answer: Silk.

3. True or false: The Silk Road was one single highway stretching from east to west.?

Answer: False

4. Which city, once called Chang'an, was a major eastern hub of the Silk Road?

Answer: Xi'an.

5. What animals were commonly used in Silk Road caravans to carry goods?

Answer: Camels.

6. Which desert was a major obstacle for Silk Road travelers?

Answer: The Taklamakan Desert.

7. What basin was a key region crossed by Silk Road routes?

Answer: The Tarim Basin.

8. Which broad region was a core zone of exchange on the Silk Road?

Answer: Central Asia.

9. Besides luxury cloth, what flavorful goods were traded along Silk Road networks?

Answer: Spices.

10. Which religion spread eastward into China along Silk Road routes?

Answer: Buddhism.

11. What writing material spread across Eurasia through Silk Road exchange?

Answer: Paper.

12. Who coined the term "Silk Road" in the 19th century?

Answer: Ferdinand von Richthofen.

13. What is the name for silk production?

Answer: Sericulture.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/silk-road>