# Social Sciences: History · Grade 6

African Kingdoms and the Explorers

TOTAL
60
MARKS

Term 1–2 | 4 questions | CAPS-aligned

NAME AND SURNAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____

## Instructions

1. This question paper consists of THREE sections. Answer all the questions.
2. Answer all the questions on the question paper itself, in the spaces provided.
3. Use the SOURCES to answer the questions where the question asks you to.
4. Write neatly and legibly. Work that cannot be read cannot be marked.
5. Think carefully and write full answers.
6. This paper covers Term 1 and Term 2 work. Paper 2 covers Term 3 and Term 4 work.

| Question | Content of the question | Marks | Obtained |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Great Zimbabwe and Marco Polo | 20 | |
| 2 | Explorers from Europe | 20 | |
| 3 | Inventions and the voyages | 8 | |
| 4 | Mapungubwe: a kingdom long ago | 12 | |
| | **Total** | 60 | |
| | **Percentage** | | % |

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Section A

## African kingdoms and travellers

### 1 Great Zimbabwe and Marco Polo

20 marks

*Study Source A and Source B and answer the questions that follow.*

**SOURCE A · GREAT ZIMBABWE**

After about 1300 Mapungubwe was abandoned, and Great Zimbabwe, north of the Limpopo River, became the new centre of trade in southern Africa. Its people built huge stone walls without using any cement. The walls of the Great Enclosure are up to 11 metres high.

Great Zimbabwe traded gold and ivory with Swahili traders on the east coast of Africa, who brought glass beads, cloth and porcelain from across the Indian Ocean. At its height about 18 000 people may have lived there.

A kingdom in southern Africa.

**1.1** When did Great Zimbabwe become the centre of trade, and which place did it replace? **(2)**

**1.2** What was special about the walls of Great Zimbabwe? **(2)**

**1.3** What did Great Zimbabwe trade away, and what did it receive in return? **(3)**

**1.4** Who were the middlemen in this trade, and where did they live? **(2)**

**SOURCE B · MARCO POLO**

Marco Polo was born in Venice in 1254. In 1271, when he was seventeen, he set out with his father and uncle on an overland journey to China along the Silk Road. He stayed there for about seventeen years and worked for the Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

After he returned to Europe in 1295, a book was written about his travels. It described paper money, black stones that burn (coal) and enormous cities. Many Europeans did not believe him, but the book made traders and explorers eager to reach the East.

A European traveller in Asia.

**1.5** In which year did Marco Polo set out, and how old was he? **(2)**

**1.6** Name THREE things described in Marco Polo's book that surprised Europeans. **(3)**

**1.7** How did Marco Polo's book influence European traders and explorers? **(3)**

**1.8** Many Europeans did not believe Marco Polo. Give THREE reasons why a historian should be careful when using his book as a source. **(3)**

Section B

## 2 Explorers from Europe

20 marks

*Study Source C and answer the questions that follow.*

**SOURCE C · THE SEARCH FOR A SEA ROUTE**

In the fifteenth century spices such as pepper, cinnamon and cloves came to Europe from the East. The route ran overland and passed through many hands. By the time the spices reached Europe they were extremely expensive.

Portugal decided to look for a sea route around Africa. Year after year ships were sent southwards, each time a little further than the last.

In 1488 Bartolomeu Dias rounded the southern tip of Africa — without realising it, because a storm had driven him far out of sight of land. His crew was exhausted and refused to sail any further.

Ten years later Vasco da Gama followed the same route and reached India. The sea route was open, and European trade changed for ever.

A report on the Portuguese sea voyages.

**2.1** Name TWO spices mentioned in the source. **(2)**

**2.2** Explain why spices were so expensive by the time they reached Europe. **(3)**

**2.3** What was Portugal trying to achieve by sending ships southwards? **(2)**

**2.4** In which year did Bartolomeu Dias round the southern tip of Africa, and why did he not realise it? **(3)**

**2.5** Dias's crew refused to sail further. Name THREE reasons why sailors of that time would have been afraid to go on. **(3)**

**2.6** What did Vasco da Gama achieve ten years later that Dias could not? **(3)**

**2.7** The source says trade "changed for ever". Name TWO ways the sea route benefited Europe, and TWO ways it affected the people of Africa and the East. **(4)**

## Section C — Longer questions

### 3 Inventions and the voyages — 8 marks

**3.1** Write next to each invention how it helped the explorers: the magnetic compass · the caravel · gunpowder **(3)**

| Invention | How it helped |
|---|---|
| **The magnetic compass** | |
| **The caravel** | |
| **Gunpowder** | |

**3.2** Name TWO hardships that sailors faced on the ships of that time. **(2)**

**3.3** In 1488 Dias and his crew met the Khoikhoi at Mossel Bay, and the meeting ended in conflict. Give THREE reasons why this could have happened. **(3)**

## 4 Mapungubwe: a kingdom long ago

12 marks

**4.1** Where was Mapungubwe, and why was that place good for a settlement? **(2)**

**4.2** Name TWO things archaeologists dug up at Mapungubwe. **(2)**

**4.3** Glass beads and Chinese porcelain were found at Mapungubwe. What does that tell us? **(2)**

**4.4** The king lived on top of the hill and the ordinary people below. What does that tell us about that society? **(3)**

**4.5** Mapungubwe is a World Heritage Site today, and the Order of Mapungubwe is South Africa's highest award. Why do you think the place is honoured like this? **(3)**

**Total** **60 marks**



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