

Break Down of Required Writing for Each Character:

Character 1 – Zhu He:

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, and the dynasty you live under. Also talk about the goods (silk, tea, porcelain) you are trading. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
- 1 paragraph on the city of Guangzhou (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 paragraph/1 image about the ship you are on and what the trip was like to Malacca.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about the city of Malacca (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and also talk about cinnamon & nutmeg you purchased there.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about the city of Ahmedaba (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the pepper you purchased there.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about Mecca and the Hajj
- 2 paragraphs/3 images about Cairo (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you), the Khan-el-Khalili market, and Al-Azhar University.
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Character 2 – Gianni Pavia:

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, etc.. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
- 1 paragraph/1 image on taking a 15th century European ship across the Mediterranean to Bursa. You may experience beautiful, calm seas or sea sickness or storms or trouble with the Ottoman navy, etc. etc.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Bursa (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the Ottoman Empire.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Baghdad (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and Arabic glassware.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Isfahan (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and Persian rugs.
- 1 ½ - 2 paragraphs/2 images on horse trip to Samarkand, the city of Samarkand itself (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and lap dogs (especially Pekinese).
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Character 3 – Ashide Lushan

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, etc.. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
 - o First paragraph, explain that Sogdiana was a last remaining kingdom of ancient Persians that were never taken over by the Greeks over the last several hundred years. Describe her religion of Zoroastrianism. Also explain that the Sogdians are concerned about Muslim expansion into their territory but have thus far maintained their independence. Describe Sogdiana and the Ferghana Valley. Also talk about your skills as an archer on horseback, uncommon for a woman at the time.
 - o Second paragraph, explain why you are going on the Silk Road to the capital city of the mighty Tang. Horses of the Ferghana Valley were highly prized by the Tang military.
- 1 paragraph/2 images travel by horse to Samarkand and the city of Samarkand the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Kashgar (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 ½ - 2 paragraphs/2 images on what it's like to be in a camel caravan and describe the Taklamakan Desert.
- 2 paragraphs/4 images on the Gobi Desert, the city of Dunhuang the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) – including info on the colony of Sogdians you visit there. And the art of the Mogao Caves.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on your final destination of Chang'an/X'ian the capital city of the Tang dynasty(the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and what you did while there.
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Character 4 – Huang Jiang

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, and the dynasty you live under. Also talk about the goods (Ming dynasty porcelain) you are trading. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations) including gaining knowledge about Islamic empires.
- 1 ½-2 paragraphs/2 images on traveling in a camel caravan and about the Gobi Desert.
 - o Mention that it's more difficult now to travel out of China since the Ming imperial government has more military posts on the border and thus there's more hassle trying to leave China.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Dunhuang the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the Magao Caves
- 1 paragraph/1 images on crossing the Taklamakan Desert (would be again in a camel caravan).
- 1 paragraph/ 2 images about Kashgar the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the religion of Islam which is the dominant religion there.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about traveling by horseback through Ferghana Valley, arriving in the city of Samarkand (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 paragraph/2 images about Bamiyan (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and Buddhism in Central Asia
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Damascus (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the Ottoman Empire that controls it, and what you do there.
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Character 5 – Alexander Gregorus

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, and the dynasty you live under. Also talk about the goods (Byzantine silk and bronze ware) you are trading. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
- 1 paragraph/2 images on traveling by ship to Cairo and the city of Cairo (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the Abbasid dynasty who controls it.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on crossing the Red Sea by ship to Damascus (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 paragraph/1 image about the camel caravan you take across the Arabian Desert to get to Baghdad.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about Baghdad during this time (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and what you do there.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about your horse ride to Samarkand (the buildings, the religion of Zoroastrianism, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) in the Ferghana Valley.
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)