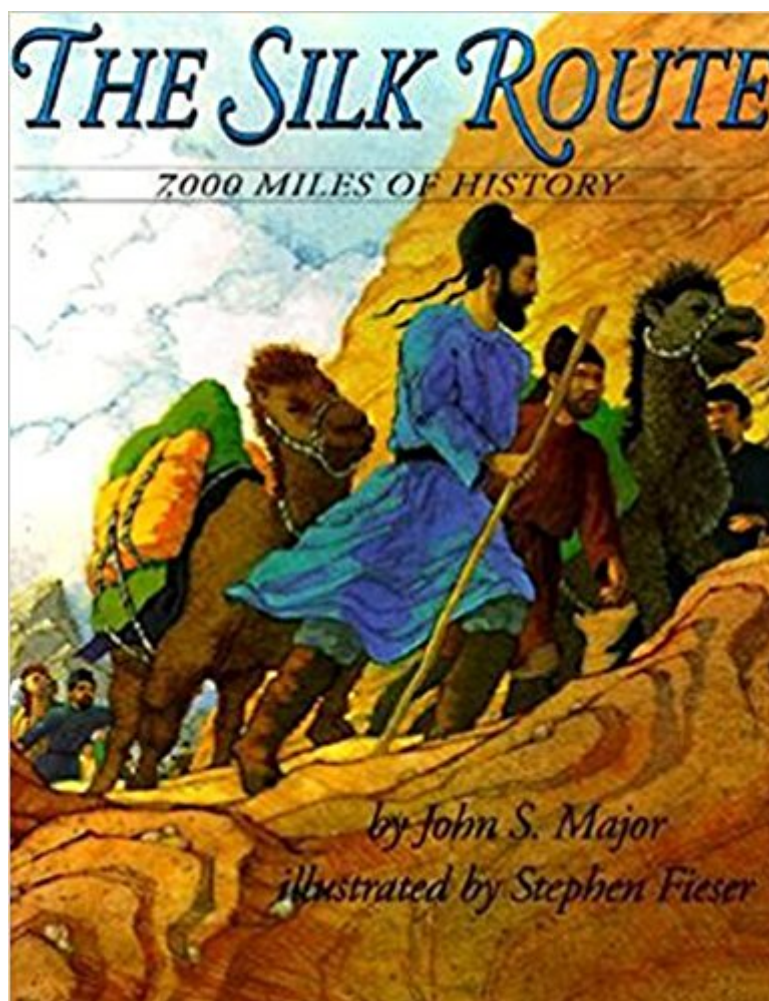


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# The Silk Route: 7,000 Miles Of History



## Synopsis

A fascinating and accessible historical picture book about commerce, trade, and cultural exchange, perfect for classroom use and research. Silk has long been considered a symbol of wealth and luxury. But thousands of years ago, the production of silk cloth was one of China's most prized secrets. So how did silk become one of the most sought-after materials in the world? With lavish illustrations and a highly informative text, *The Silk Route* traces the early history of the silk trade—from the mulberry groves of China to the marketplace in Byzantium—and explores how two of the world's greatest empires were brought together, forever opening the channels of commerce between East and West. A treasure through the years, this book is perfect for the classroom and independent book reports.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD1140L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 2.7.1996 edition (March 8, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064434680

ISBN-13: 978-0064434683

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 19 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #145,129 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Asia](#) #36 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Medieval](#) #71 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 5

## Customer Reviews

This well-matched pair explores an unusual picture-book topic: the Silk Route, which ran from the Chinese city of Chang'an to the European capital of Byzantium during the Tang Dynasty (618-906). Major (The Land and People of China) guides readers through a stop-by-stop excursion, devoting each spread to a different city along the way and explaining its importance to the caravans' progress. He surveys the different cultures traversed, adding drama in the form of such obstacles as

bandits and the arid Taklamakan desert ("Its name means 'if you go in, you won't come out'"). Brief discussions of each city's religion, industry and daily life supply historical context while explaining the Route's social and economic importance. With their impressive variety of subjects and perspectives, Fieser's (The Christmas Sky) illustrations convey the scope and sweep of this famous passage. From a river rushing through Afghanistan's Pamir mountains to a sprawling overview of Baghdad, his pictures vivify Major's meticulous descriptions. Children's BOMC alternate. Ages 8-12. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4<sup>^</sup>-8. A history of the 7,000-mile trade route that developed between China and Byzantium for centuries is dramatized in a handsome picture book for older readers that combines a general overview with an account of one typical journey around A.D. 700. The paintings are filled with action, reflecting the diversity of places and cultures and people that were connected when the great silk trade flourished. The problem is that there's so much history to be explained that the narrative is dense and hard to read. A clear, colorful map does help, and the book has detailed notes at the back on everything from warfare to religion. This will get most use as curriculum support material in the middle grades. Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was built on a sound concept, but the finished result does not quite deliver. The text is not very engaging, rather it is impersonal and borders on dry. The "caravan" is nameless and faceless as well as the "merchants" along the way. The progression through the Silk Route and the accompanying artwork is very well done. The factual background is great. The book could have been great...but will have to settle for good...and very useful due to lack of abundant children's resources on the subject.

I wanted some background for younger children into the Han Dynasty as we were reading a Chinese folktale about the little Empress who took the secret of the silkworm with her to a new marriage, thereby revealing the centuries old secret. While the book is easily understood it was not intriguing enough to hold their interest. Not being familiar with the Silk Route myself, I found it quite interesting. But I have to give it 4 stars instead of 5 because it is supposed to be for children. I teamed the folk story and the story of the silk trade and ancient road with gifts of Chinese Barbie dolls for the granddaughters. And we discussed also the influence on fashion in the West after the

International exhibition of 1862 during the Victorian years, in home decorations, gardens, porcelain china, dresses, and even the English Royals household dogs (Japanese Spaniels, now the Japanese Chin...which originated in China.

The rich illustrations are very memorable. Our children (3-12) soaked up the information and referred back to it from other resources. I would love more history/geography resources like this one!

this book is very beautiful illustrated, but the text is much richer than anticipated because it makes bold statements and correlations with facts not well known. It presents very sophisticated ideas with kindness and precision.

This is a very simple book for young reader who can be entertained with pictures and a brief story. It whets the appetite for looking deeper into a fascinating piece of history and a culture that are still just being discovered.

good!

good data - wish there were more books on this topic for fifth graders

Lovely. I would have enjoyed more background information and a more detailed map. Nice companion to "Chengli." Good even for very young children.

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