UNIT 3 · LESSON 1 ANSWER KEY

Source detectives

What can a source tell us?

AIMS

How confident are you now? Circle one face for each aim at the end of the lesson.

Content Find out what different sources can and cannot tell us. ☹ 😐 ☺

Language Understand and use key words about sources. ☹ 😐 ☺

Skills Choose the most useful sources for a question. ☹ 😐 ☺

Think: See, think, wonder

Look closely at Source A on the screen. Write one idea for each.

Teacher: Accept any idea that matches the stage: SEE = only what is really in the painting.

SEE

Suggested answer: **e.g. a giraffe with a long neck and a man who holds it with a rope.**

THINK

Suggested answer: **e.g. I think the giraffe was a special gift, because a man is looking after it.**

WONDER

Suggested answer: **e.g. I wonder where the giraffe came from.**



Source A

Listen: Meet Zheng He

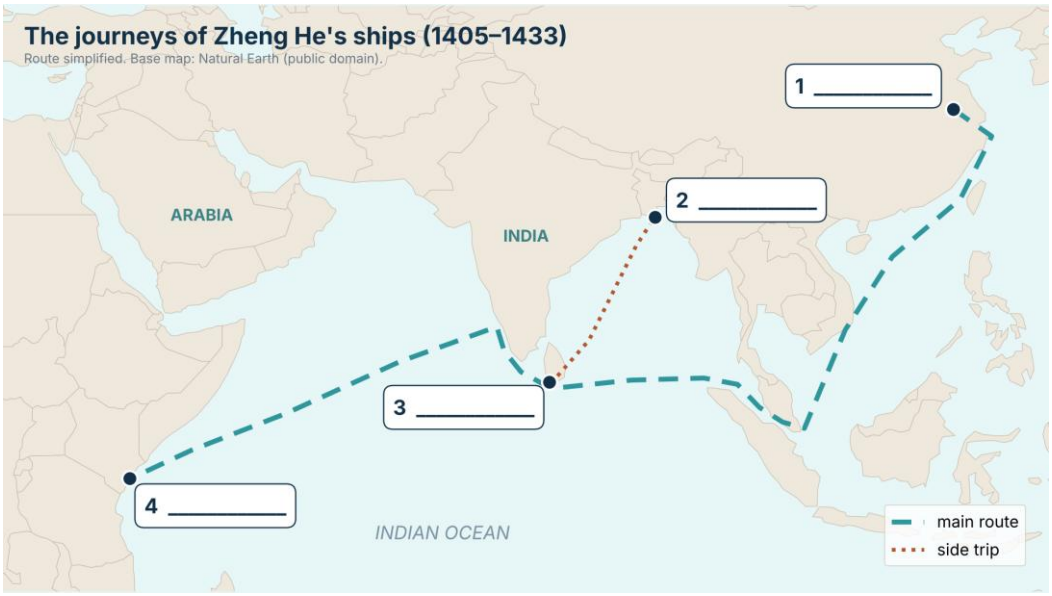
Listen twice. Take notes in bullet points: words and numbers, not full sentences.

Teacher: Listen 1: Who? When? Listen 2: Where? Why?

1 Who? Who was Zheng He? • **leader of the fleet** • **sent by Emperor Yongle** • **about 27,000 people, 200+ ships**	**2 When?** When did the ships sail? • **about 600 years ago** • **1405–1433** • **seven journeys**
3 Where? Name 3 places. • **Southeast Asia** • **India, Sri Lanka, Arabia** • **East Africa**	**4 Why?** Give 2 reasons. • **show China's power and wealth** • **give gifts (silk, porcelain)** • **trade and collect information**

Label: Seven long journeys

Write the places in boxes 1–4. Use the listening and what you already know.



WORD BANK China · Bengal · Sri Lanka · Malindi (East Africa)

1 China 2 Bengal 3 Sri Lanka 4 Malindi (East Africa)

Read: Life on the treasure ships

Read the text. Then do the true or false task on page 3.

A treasure ship was like a small floating town. Each ship carried hundreds of people. There were sailors and soldiers, but also cooks, doctors and interpreters: people who could speak other languages. One interpreter, Ma Huan, later wrote a book about the places he visited.

The sailors needed to find their way across the open sea. They used a magnetic compass, and at night they looked at the stars. They also used special sea maps that showed the routes between ports.

The ships could not sail at any time. They waited for the monsoon winds, which change direction at different times of the year. Because of this, one journey could take about two years.

The ships carried silk, porcelain and other gifts from China. They came back with spices, precious stones and medicines.

interpreter = a person who changes words from one language to another **monsoon winds** = strong winds that change with the seasons **porcelain** = fine white pottery



silk



porcelain



spices



precious stones

Modern illustrations

Check: True or false?

Circle T or F. Then correct the false sentences.

Teacher: Several sentences are nearly right: one small word makes them false. Ask: "Show me the words in the text."

1	Each treasure ship carried hundreds of people.	T
2	There were doctors on the ships, but no cooks. **There were cooks and doctors.**	F
3	An interpreter is a person who can speak other languages.	T
4	Ma Huan wrote his book before he joined the ships. **He wrote it later, after the journeys.**	F
5	The sailors used a compass and the stars to find their way.	T
6	The ships waited for the right winds before they sailed.	T
7	One journey could take about two months. **One journey could take about two years.**	F
8	The ships came back to China with spices, precious stones and porcelain. **Porcelain went out from China. They came back with spices, precious stones and medicines.**	F

Learn: Key words

Say each word. Read the meaning. Write the word in a language you know.

WORD	MEANING	IN MY LANGUAGE
source	something that gives us information about the past	*Learners' own words*
evidence	information that helps answer a question	*Learners' own words*
primary source	made at the time, or by someone who was there	*Learners' own words*
secondary source	made later by someone who was not there. It explains or comments on the past.	*Learners' own words*
feature	something you can see or notice	*Learners' own words*
specific	exact and clear	*Learners' own words*
captive	kept by people, not free	*Learners' own words*

Read: Four sources

Look at each source and read the caption. Use them for your detective notes on page 5.

Source A: Tribute Giraffe with Attendant



Based on a painting by **Shen Du**, a court artist.

Nanjing, China, **1414**.

There is **Chinese writing** at the top.

Tribute Giraffe with Attendant. Philadelphia Museum of Art. Public domain.

Source B: a stone from Sri Lanka



Dated **1409**.

Found in **Sri Lanka**.

The writing is in **three languages**: Chinese, Tamil and Persian.

It lists gifts from Zheng He's ships to a temple.

Galle stone, 1409. Colombo National Museum, Sri Lanka. Photo: Kanatonian, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons.

Source C: an old Chinese sea map



From a Chinese book finished in **1621**.

It shows sea routes to **India**, **Sri Lanka** and **Africa**.

Find **Malindi** at the bottom.

Many historians think it was copied from the sailors' own route maps.

Mao Kun map, from the Wubei Zhi (1621). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. English labels added.

Source D: a page from a school textbook

Chapter 3 · China and the Indian Ocean

The giraffe that came to China

In 1414, a giraffe arrived in China. It was a gift for the Emperor from the king of Bengal. But the giraffe first came from Malindi, a city in East Africa. Visitors from Malindi took it to Bengal, and Zheng He's ships brought it to China. People in China had never seen a giraffe before. Many people thought it was a magical, lucky animal.



Malindi, East Africa: a modern illustration. page 47

Write: Detective notes

Ask the three questions about each source on page 4. Write short notes, not sentences. Copy row A from the teacher's model.

Teacher: Accept other answers if they are true and specific. The "suggests" column can differ most: ask "What can you see that makes you think that?"

1 **What is it?** painting · object · map · text · primary or secondary?
2 **What does it show? What does it suggest?** see · think
3 **What can't it tell us?** the limitation

	WHAT IS IT?	IT SHOWS… (SEE)	IT SUGGESTS… (THINK)	IT CANNOT TELL US…
A	painting from China · 1414 · primary	a giraffe · a man holds it with a rope	the giraffe was captive	how the giraffe got to China
B	stone · 1409 · primary	writing in 3 languages · gifts from Zheng He's ships	the ships visited Sri Lanka	anything about the giraffe
C	map · book from 1621 · based on older maps	sea routes to India, Sri Lanka and Africa · Malindi	Chinese ships could sail to Malindi	if a giraffe was on a ship
D	textbook page · secondary	a gift from the king of Bengal, 1414 · first came from Malindi	Zheng He's ships carried it from Bengal to China	how the writer knows

Teacher: Row A is modelled on slide 17. Source A's Chinese writing (slide 18) says the giraffe was a gift from Bengal: learners can add this to row A.

Use the evidence: How did a giraffe get to China?

Talk with a partner first: which two sources are most useful? Why? Your partner asks: "Which detail shows that?" Then write 3 sentences. Use one specific detail from each source.

Teacher: Learners should answer the question, not just describe sources. Any two most useful sources with a reason are fine; A (the writing names Bengal) and D (it explains the whole journey) are strong.

Suggested answer: **Source D suggests that the giraffe first came from Malindi, and Zheng He's ships carried it from Bengal to China.**

Suggested answer: **This is supported by Source A, which has Chinese writing that says the giraffe was a gift from the kingdom of Bengal.**

Suggested answer: **However, Source D cannot tell us how the writer knows.**

Check ☐ **I answer the question** ☐ **a specific detail from each source** ☐ **one limitation**

On your own: a new question

What is the evidence that Zheng He's ships visited Bengal? Use Sources E and F. Write 3 sentences on your own.

Source E: Ma Huan describes Bengal

Ma Huan sailed with Zheng He as an interpreter. Later he wrote a book about the places they visited.

From Sumatra, the ships sailed north-west for about twenty-one days and arrived at Chittagong, in Bengal. There, people changed to small boats and went up the river to a town called Sonargaon.

Bengal is a large country with walled cities. Rich people build ships and trade with other countries. People pay with a silver coin called a tanka. For small things, they use sea shells. They make very fine cotton cloth.

Adapted from Ma Huan's book (written about 1416–1451). English translation 1895, public domain.

Source F: a coin from Bengal



A silver **tanka** from Bengal. Made about **1493–1519**.

tanka = a silver coin

Silver tanka, Sultanate of Bengal. American Numismatic Society, public domain.

Suggested answer: **Source E suggests that Zheng He's ships visited Bengal, because Ma Huan describes the route to Chittagong and the money people used.**

Suggested answer: **This is supported by Source F, which shows that people in Bengal really used silver coins called tanka.**

Suggested answer: **However, Source F cannot tell us that Chinese ships went there, because it was made more than 60 years later.**

Teacher: Other good limitations: Source E was written some years after the journey; we read it in translation.

Check ☐ **a specific detail from E** ☐ **a detail from F** ☐ **one limitation**

STRETCH **Which source is more useful for this question, E or F? Why?**

Suggested answer: **Source E, because Ma Huan sailed with Zheng He and describes the route to Bengal. Source F only shows Bengal used silver coins, and it was made later.**