

Should We Celebrate the Voyages of Zheng He?

Zheng He Mini-Q

Page 4 (299) Background Information

1. Describe Zheng He's childhood.
2. How did Zheng He become an official in Emperor Yongle's government?
3. How many voyages did Zheng He command?
4. What were three possible reasons for the voyages? Which do you think was the main one?
5. Why was there opposition in China to Zheng He's journeys?
6. How was the Spanish response to Columbus's voyages different from the Chinese response to Zheng He's?
7. Define these terms:
 - Ming Dynasty
 - eunuch
 - tribute
 - emissary
 - colonialism

1. What was the final destination of each voyage?
2. In all seven voyages combined, how far did Zheng He travel?
3. What was the sailing distance, one way, from China to Mombasa?
4. Does it appear that Zheng He was traveling to unknown lands or to well-established ports?
5. How can you use this document to argue that Zheng He's voyages should be celebrated?
6. How can you use this document to argue that Zheng He's voyages should not be celebrated?

Page 7 (305) Document B

1. What was the size of the treasure ship compared to the Santa Maria?
2. Compare Zheng He and Christopher Columbus. What generalization can you make about size of fleet and size of crew?
3. How can you use this document to argue that Zheng He's voyages should be celebrated?
4. How can you use this document to argue that Zheng He's voyages should not be celebrated?

1. Compare the deck dimensions of Zheng's treasure ship with an American football field. (The length of a football field is 300 feet; the width is 160 feet.) Which was bigger? Show your math.
2. The doctor-to-patient ratio in the United States today is about 1 to 400. What was the ratio of doctors to total crew members in Zhang's fleet?
3. Judging by the crew's make up, was this a military expedition, a trade expedition, or both? Use evidence to support your thinking.
4. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should be celebrated?
5. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should not be celebrated?

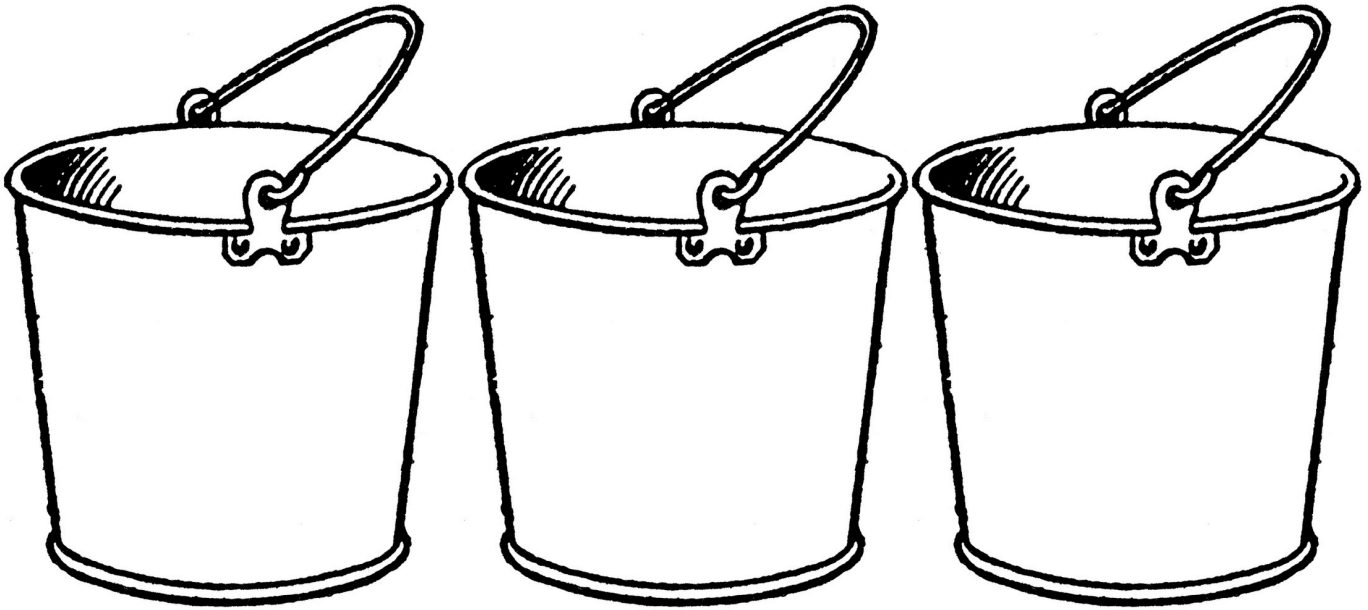
Page 9 (309) Document D

1. What is an envoy?
2. What is tribute?
3. Judging from the document, what was an important purpose of Zheng He's voyages?
4. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should be celebrated?
5. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should not be celebrated?

1. Who is likely to have ordered the writing of the Changle Inscription? When was it done?
2. What is the meaning and significance of the phrase, “double translation”?
3. According to the Changle Inscription, what appears to be the emperor’s purpose for ordering these voyages?
4. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should be celebrated?
5. How can you use the document to argue that the voyages of Zheng He should not be celebrated?

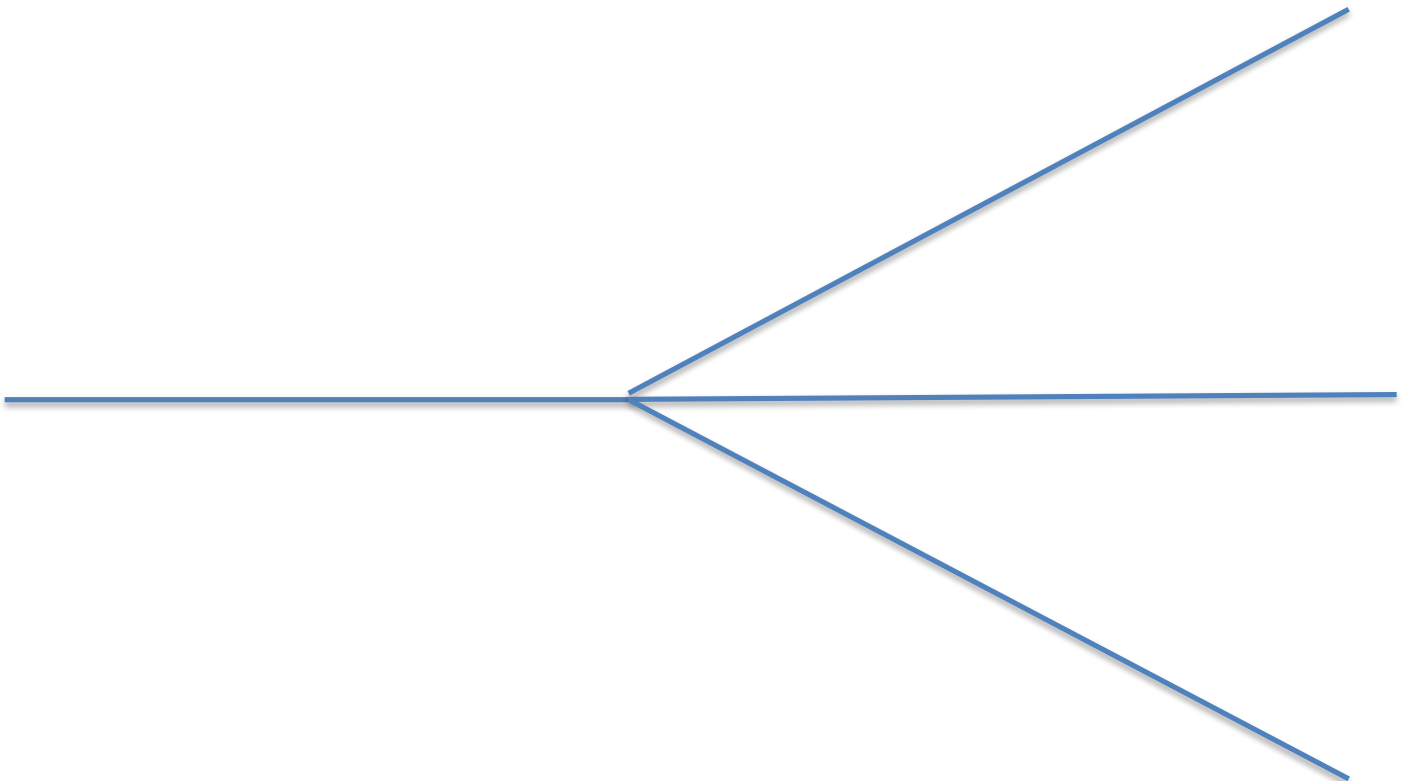
Bucketing

Look over all the documents and organize them into your final buckets. Write labels under each bucket and place the letters of the documents in the buckets where they belong. In this Mini-Q, lots of multi-bucketing is expected. Remember, your buckets are going to be your body paragraphs.



Thesis Development and Road Map

On the chickenfoot below, write your thesis and your road map. Your thesis is always an opinion and answers the Mini-Q question. The road map is created from your bucket labels and lists the topic areas you will examine in order to prove your thesis.



From Thesis to Essay Writing: Mini-Q Essay Outline Guide

Working Title – Create your own title for the essay

Paragraph #1 – Introduction Paragraph

Grabber – “Hook” (something to get the reader’s attention)

Background – Background information about the topic (lectures, notes, books, etc.)

Stating the question with key terms defined

Thesis and road map – Thesis statement (look at the Chicken Foot for your Thesis!)

Paragraph #2

Baby Thesis for bucket one

Evidence: supporting detail documents with document citation

Argument: connecting evidence to the thesis

Paragraph #3

Baby Thesis for bucket two

Evidence: supporting detail documents with document citation

Argument: connecting evidence to the thesis

Paragraph #4

Baby Thesis for bucket three

Evidence: supporting detail documents with document citation

Argument: connecting evidence to the thesis

Paragraph #5

Conclusion: restatement of main idea along with possible insight or wrinkle

Restate your thesis and add in any additional information (evidence)