GLOSSARY

Barter: To exchange goods of equal value

Bronze: a mixture of copper and tin, used to make decorative objects, containers, and ceremonial swords.

Bulkheads: Compartments. Used especially to describe storage areas in ships

Caravans: Herds of specially trained camels, used to carry heavy loads for long distances over dry, desert lands.

Caravanserai: a rest house where people can stay safely overnight.

Ceramics: Items made from clay, especially pottery, tiles, and porcelain.

Empire: Many nations joined together under the rule of a single leader called an emperor.

Ewer: Water jug.

Exotic: coming from faraway lands.

Frostbite: Damage to the skin caused by extreme cold.

Glazed: Covered with a shiny surface layer.

Heatstroke: Illness caused by too much exposure to the hot sun.

Khan: Mongol word for ruler.

Khanate: Lands rules by a Khan

Mongols: Nomad peoples who lived in Central Asia and present day Mongolia. They were brave fighters and expert horse-riders. In the 13th century they conquered a vast empire, led by Chingiz and Kublai Khan.

Mosque: Building where Muslims go to pray and listen to readings of the holy book, The Qur’an.

Nomads: People who move their homes from place to place, in search of food and water for themselves and sometimes, their herds of animals.

Porcelain: Very fine white hard pottery made from special clay.

Silk: A special textile invented in China from the cocoons of the silkworm.

Sluice: An underwater gate that regulates the water passing through it.

Steppes: Vast, flat grasslands in Central Asia and the Far East. The steppes were home to the Mongols and their herds of horses, sheep, and goats.

Yurt: Mongol tent made of felt on a wooden frame.