

Silk Road Topics for Student Presentations

I have prepared a shortlist of topics with relevant details for student presentations.

Chose a topic from the listed or suggest a new topic for discussion.

- **East bound trade** – What products/ gems/ minerals/ metals/ plants/ nuts/ seeds/ trees/ fruits/ vegetables/ animals/ technologies were imported to China?
- **West bound trade** – What products/ gems/ minerals/ metals/ plants/ nuts/ seeds/ trees/ fruits/ vegetables/ animals/ technologies were exported from China?
- **Ferdinand von Richthofen** (1833 – 1905) – Silk Road research
- **Sir Aurel Stein** (1862 – 1943) – Silk Road research/ Sand-buried sites
- **Zang Qian 張騫** 138 BCE (Han Dynasty) – Western Regions
- **Fa Xian 法顯** 399 (Eastern Jin Dynasty) – Buddhist Monk
- **Xuán Zàng 玄奘** 629 (Tang Dynasty) – Buddhist Monk
- **Monkey King 西遊記 (Xī Yóu Jì)** Ming Dynasty Novel *Journey to the West*
- **Dung Huang** (Mogao Caves/Grottoes) – Art/ history/ culture/ the “Library Cave”
- **Tarim mummies** – First foreigners/ desert graves and tombs/ Astana tombs/ red-haired mummies/ Caucasoids/ Tocharians
- **Silk Road today** – China’s super highway(s) to Central Asia
- **Ancient kingdoms** of Gaochang and Jiahoe
- **Arrival of Islam and the Silk Road** (and Yusuf Balasaguni and Kashgar)
- **Arrival of Christianity on the Silk Road** (and Nestorianism/ Tang dynasty)
- **Oases of the Taklimakan – Northern route** – Dung Huang/ Turpan/ Hami/ Korla/ Kucha/ Aksu/ Kashgar
- **Oases of the Taklimakan – Southern route** – Dung Huang/ Charchan/ Niya/ Keria/ Khotan/ Yarkand/ Kashgar
- **Other archeologists** and explorers – Sven Hedin (Swedish geographer); Albert von Le Coq (German archaeologist)