Admiral Zheng He

Zheng He was sent on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of exploration by Emperor Zhu Di of the Ming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who came to power in 1402. His fleets of anything up to 300 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ journeyed south along the coast to modern-day Vietnam, Thailand, Malacca in Malaysia, Calicut in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and Hormuz in Arabia.

He established trading links with these places, offering blue and white porcelain, jade, lacquer and \_\_\_\_\_\_ textiles. In return, the Chinese received valuable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, gold cloth, amber, incense, tin, and wild animals such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, lions, leopards, elephants and parrots. The largest of his ships were said to be over \_\_\_\_\_\_ metres long and 45 metres wide, far larger than any vessel of exploration built by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

This period of enormous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and trade by Zheng He was brief. With the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Emperor Zhu Di in 1424, his successors started to turn their back on foreign exploration. Zheng He’s last voyage was in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Since government records on Zheng He’s journeys were deliberately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the fifteenth century, historians are left to piece together the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as to what he did find and wonder what might have been if the Chinese had continued to explore.

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