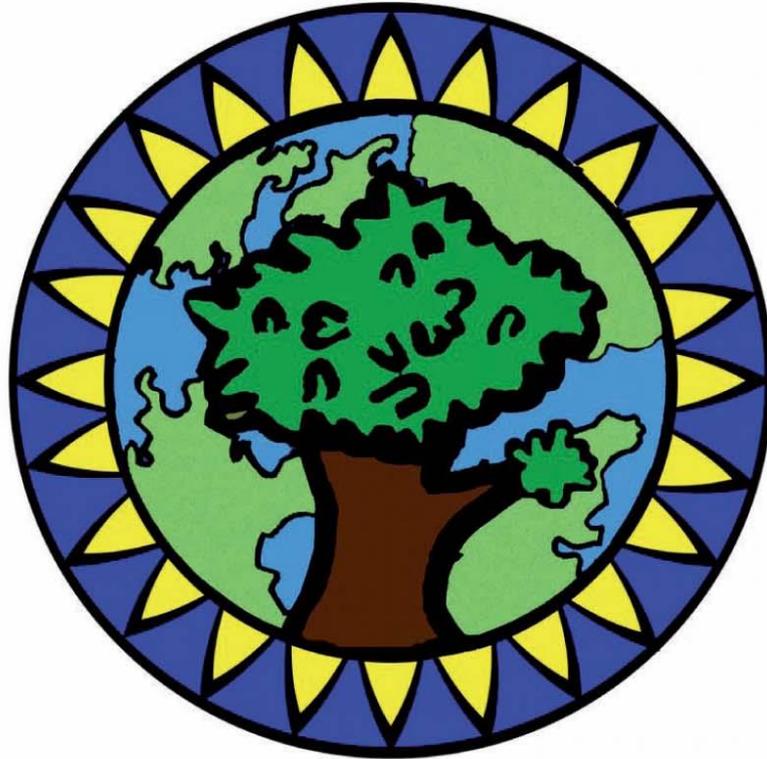


# Branch Out World



Linked Lapbook

**Marco Polo**

The **Linked Lapbook** series is written primarily for use by Home Educating families but it will be useful for any parent who wishes to support their child's learning whether they attend school or not. The intended age range is approximately 5 to 10 years but the lapbooks can easily be adapted to include older or younger siblings accordingly. This helps to keep Home Education a truly family experience.

This PDF file refers to a single male child throughout. I use this convention because it is just a shorter and easier way to write this material. It by no means is meant to imply that this material is aimed at boys only, or at one child families. It's not. It's equally as relevant to girls as to boys and can be used in family groups of siblings of mixed ages and abilities with differing interests.

**\*Disclaimer: Branch Out World** is not responsible for any of the content on any of the websites linked in this lapbook. Please check suitability for your child beforehand.  
Thank you.

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## What is a lapbook?

A lapbook is more than just a cardboard folder with a selection of small booklets stuck inside. It's an effective means of displaying and recording a child's learning.

It's a way of helping children learn by breaking big projects up into smaller, more achievable chunks.

It's more versatile than a workbook, being more hands-on and more creative.

It's a means of providing a personalised education; lapbooks can be adapted for each individual child by selecting the minibooks that best suit them and minibooks can be completed in a way that builds on each child's strengths.

Some of the different ways that children can complete the minibooks:

- some minibooks come with pre-written answers that simply need glueing in;
- children can write answers of varying lengths, from a single word to a full paragraph;
- children can draw pictures, instead of writing, to show what they have learnt;
- parents can scribe for less confident writers so that the child's knowledge is recorded without them becoming discouraged;
- children can add stickers or clip art to the lapbook base for decoration and to add further information;
- children who don't complete all the minibooks can still get a sense of achievement by putting a lapbook together, even with only one or two minibooks;
- projects can be continued at a later date by the addition of extension flaps, or even by adding a second lapbook base. Bases can be glued back to back, or outer panels can be glued together.

## Making This Lapbook

### **Necessary Materials:**

You will need:

lapbook base (see below)

A4 card for extension flap (optional)

a good quality gluestick

double-sided sticky tape

split-pin paper fastener

extra wide sellotape or similar (for fixing extension flap)

### **Completing the minibooks:**

Unless your children particularly enjoy cutting and folding, I strongly recommend cutting out all the minibook pieces before starting this project with them.

If a minibook is made of more than one component, paper-clip the pieces together or store them in individual self-sealing bags or envelopes.

Store the whole lot, including completed minibooks, in a ziplock bag or document wallet until the project is finished.

Each minibook is marked throughout the instructions as being either Level A, level B or level A & B. Choose the one most suited to your child's abilities and interests.

Use a good quality glue stick to stick the minibook components together.

When sticking the minibooks onto the lapbook base, it is better to use double-sided sticky tape for some of the heavier ones.

### **Lapbook base:**

It is advisable to make the lapbook base after the minibooks have been completed so that you know whether to add extension flaps or not.

There are different ways to make a lapbook base: some people stick pieces of A4 card together;

some people use A3 card folded into 3 & some people use square-cut A4 folders and refold them to create 3 panels. Personally, I prefer to use A4 document wallets. These come already pre-folded, all you have to do is cut off the sides of the pockets as shown below.



#### **Adding the extension flap:**

This can be a little tricky so will need to be done by an adult.

Wide tape is used to make for a stronger 'hinge'. I have used brown parcel tape for illustration purposes. Clear sellotape works just as well.

Carefully line up one of the short edges of the A4 card against the edge of the middle panel of the lapbook base. Do not overlap the two edges.



Tape the card and lapbook base together.

Fold the card extension into the lapbook.

With the extension flap still folded in, stick tape along the card to half the width.

Then fold the tape over on to the back of the lapbook to complete the 'hinge'.

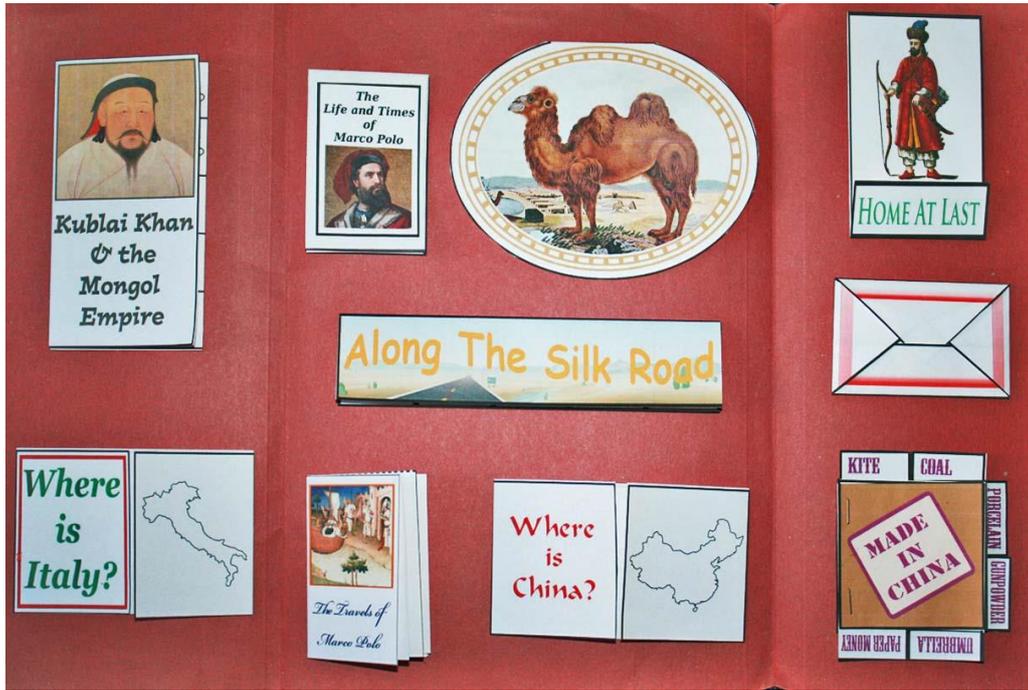


#### **Adding the minibooks:**

Your finished lapbook may well look different because children often prefer to design their own layout. Also, children don't always want to complete all the minibooks and their layout will reflect this. Feel free to adapt this lapbook to suit your own children's needs. Drawings and worksheets can be glued to the back of the extension flap. You may need to add a second

extension flap to the top of the lapbook base if you use the extra seed packet minibooks or if you want to add photos.

Lapbook Layout



### Activity 3: The Silk Road

#### Level A & B

Learn about the Silk Road [here](#).

Parents can find out more about the Silk Road [here](#).

Discuss where the goods you buy come from. How do they get to you?

#### **Instructions for minibook construction**

Cut out in one piece.

Fold the bottom third up and the cover down.

Cut along the short black lines as indicated by the scissors to create 5 flaps.

Stick section marked 'Glue here' into lapbook base.

#### **Filling in the minibook**

##### **Level A**

Each flap names an item carried along the Silk Road.

Children can draw a picture under each flap.

Alternatively, if possible, children can stick samples of each item under the flaps.

##### **Level B**

Children can list some of the goods that were carried along the Silk Road on each flap. (spices, silk, gold, tea, jade, ivory, slaves, wine, wool).

Under the flap, they can write which direction the item travelled - East to West or West to East.

On the back of the minibook cover, children can include further information about The Silk Road.

The following questions can be used as a guide.

Why was the Silk Road so important to Venice? (They had a special trade agreement which gave them a monopoly on goods that came to Europe along the Silk Road. This made Venice a very rich town.)

What countries did the Silk Road pass through? (Persia, China, Egypt, Italy, India, Arabia)

Along The Silk Road

Glue Here

Fold along here

silk

wool

tea

spices

gold

Cut along lines indicated by scissors only as far as fold.

Fold 5 small flaps up.  
Fold cover flap down.

Cut out in one piece.

Along The Silk Road

Glue Here

Fold along here

Fold along here

Cut along lines indicated by scissors only as far as fold.

Fold 5 small flaps up.  
Fold cover flap down.

Cut out in one piece.

Thank you for your purchase.

I hope you and your child have enjoyed your time exploring with this lapbook and the included activities.

I am always looking to improve my products to give my customers exactly what they want. Your feedback is most welcome. My aim is to help you to facilitate your child's learning journey in a fun and positive way whilst creating happy memories together.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future units please don't hesitate to contact me by email at [helen@picturebookexplorers.co.uk](mailto:helen@picturebookexplorers.co.uk)

Visit the website for more ideas, activities and updates at [www.picturebookexplorers.co.uk](http://www.picturebookexplorers.co.uk)

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