

# We're Riding on a Caravan: An Adventure on the Silk Road

## Library Lessons

by | Lynne Farrell Stover

Grades  
K-3

### Extension Activities

**Introduction:** The repetition and sing-song nature of the text begs for student interaction. In fact, it's a natural fit. Prepare for an enthusiastic response!

**Art:** Helen Cann, illustrator of *We're Riding on a Caravan: An Adventure on the Silk Road* (Barefoot Books, 2007), uses watercolor with marbled paper and fabric pieces to create interesting images. Students can simulate similar collage work. Allow them to study the book's illustrations and choose a person, place, or animal they would like to duplicate. Then, using small pieces of poster board as canvases, students can be creative with scissors, glue, wallpaper scraps, watercolors, markers, differently textured paper, etc. Completed artwork may be displayed on a bulletin board titled "Images of Ancient China."

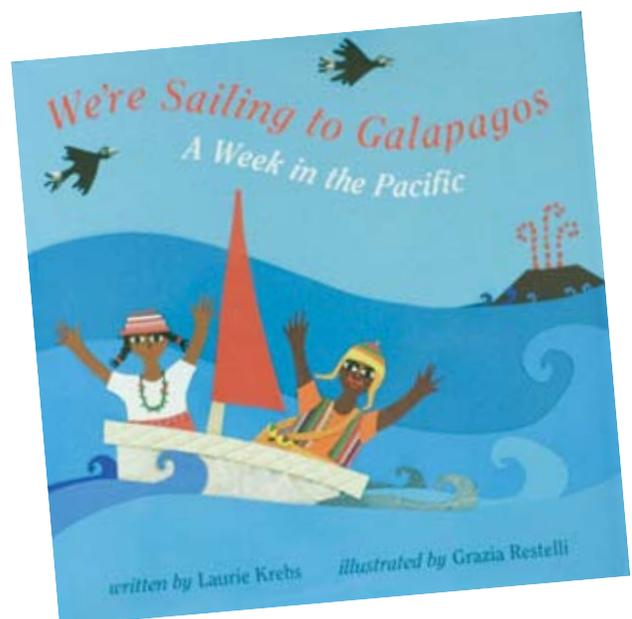
**Economics:** One of the main reasons the Silk Road (also known as the Silk Route) was created was to facilitate trade between different cultures. Hold a class market day similar to that found in Kashgar. (A detailed illustration can be found on pages 15 & 16 in *We're Riding on a Caravan*.) Students may bring in, with their parents' permission, used books, old-but-clean t-shirts, fast food kid's meal toys, etc. These items may be bartered during the allocated market time. After the activity is complete ask the following questions.

- Is everyone happy with what he or she traded? Why or why not?
- Where any of this market's good or services more valued than others? If so, why do you think that was?
- Would the use of money be easier than bartering?
- What would you do differently if there were to be a second market day activity as both a buyer and a seller?

**Poetry:** Laurie Krebs writes her text in rhyming couplets. Read several pages of *We're Riding on a Caravan* to the students. Instruct them to write similar poems, titled either "We're Riding on a School Bus," or "We're Eating in the Cafeteria". Encourage humor and detailed illustrations.

**Reading:** Laurie Krebs's travel books are delightful and informative. Enjoyed by both teachers and students, they would pair well with *We're Riding on a Caravan*.

- *Off We Go to Mexico: An Adventure in the Sun* by Laurie Krebs. Illustrated by Christopher Corr. Barefoot Books, 2006.
- *Up and Down the Andes: A Peruvian Festival Tale* by Laurie Krebs. Illustrated by Aurelia Fronty. Barefoot Books, 2008.
- *We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania* by Laurie Krebs. Illustrated by Julia Cairns. Barefoot Books, 2004.
- *We're Sailing Down the Nile: A Journey through Egypt* by Laurie Krebs. Illustrated by Anne Wilson. Barefoot Books, 2007.
- *We're Sailing to Galapagos: A Week in the Pacific* by Laurie Krebs. Illustrated by Grazia Restelli. Barefoot Books, 2005.



**Research:** Using the information found at the end of the book, have students create a detailed tri-fold travel brochure promoting travel on the Silk Road. This can be accomplished by folding a plain piece of paper in thirds and filling in the appropriate information. Remind students that travel brochures are colorful, well illustrated, and contain accurate and inviting information.

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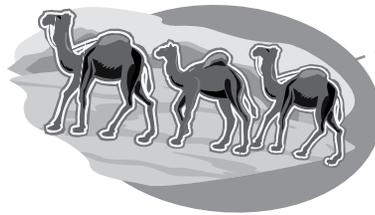
*Lynne Farrell Stover has over thirty years of experience as an educator and is currently a Teacher Consultant at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She has taught many teacher workshops and won Teacher of the Year in 1999 from the Virginia Council of Economic Education and from the Virginia Association for the Gifted. She is the author of Magical Library Lessons, More Magical Library Lessons, Magical Library Lessons: Holiday Happenings, and From Snicket to Shakespeare from UpstartBooks.*



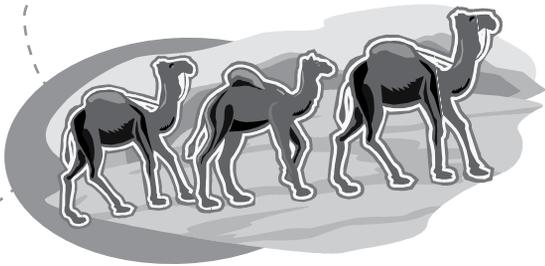
# ***We're Riding on a Caravan: An Adventure on the Silk Road Student Refrain***

We're riding on a caravan, a bumpy, bumpy caravan

We're riding on a caravan,  
to places far away.



We're riding on a caravan,  
a bumpy, bumpy caravan



We're riding on a caravan, and for a while we'll stay.

We're riding on a caravan,  
a bumpy, bumpy caravan



We're loading up our caravan, for home is far away.

# WE'RE WALKING IN A CARAVAN: A LIBRARY TOUR

## Working Script

### Student refrain:

We're walking in a caravan—a humpy bumpy caravan.  
We're walking in a caravan to find the books we want.

### Librarian's verse:

We'll start with all the fiction books because they're so much fun.  
Right here is \_\_\_\_\_, and it's a perfect one!

### Student refrain:

We're walking in a caravan—a humpy bumpy caravan.  
We're walking in a caravan to find the books we want.

### Librarian's verse:

Nonfiction books can all be found with numbers on their spines.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is a favorite one of mine.

### Student refrain:

We're walking in a caravan—a humpy bumpy caravan.  
We're walking in a caravan to find the books we want.

### Librarian's verse:

Reference books help us find facts—we only need to look.  
Here is a (an) \_\_\_\_\_. Is China in this book?

### Student refrain:

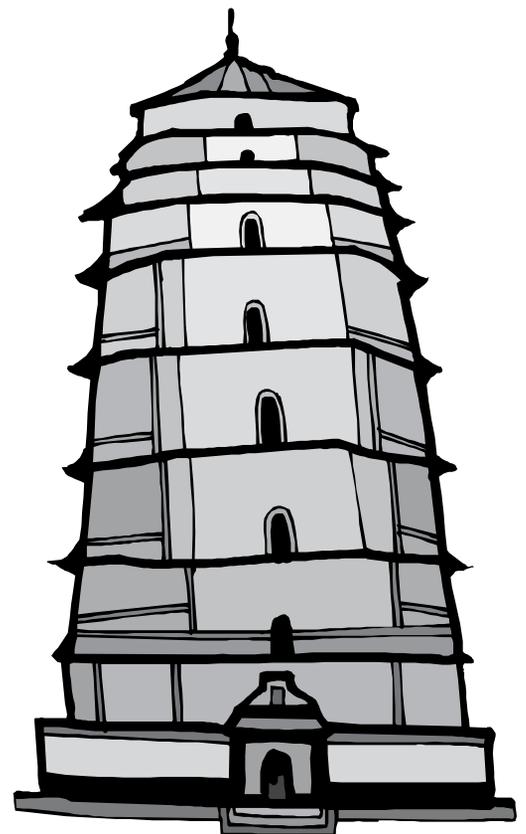
We're walking in a caravan—a humpy bumpy caravan.  
We're walking in a caravan to find the books we want.

### Librarian's verse:

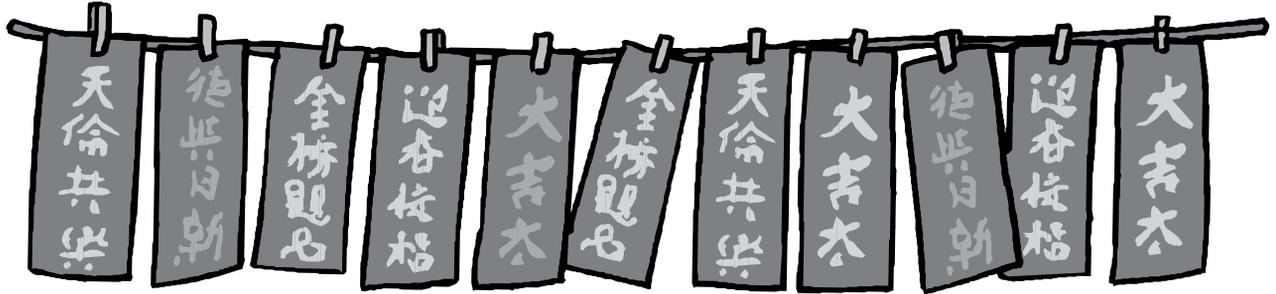
The last stop is the checkout desk—we found the books we need!  
It's so much fun to take books home and then sit down to read!

### Student refrain:

We're walking in a caravan—a humpy bumpy caravan.  
We're walking in a caravan—returning to our seats.

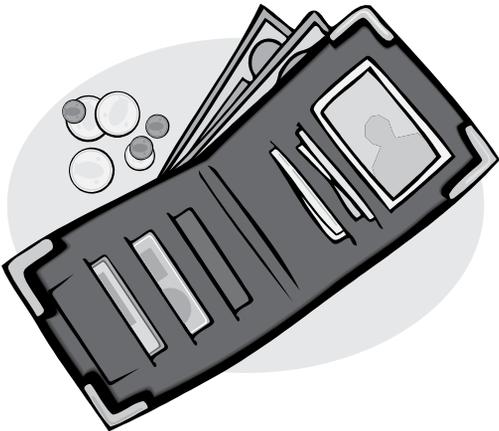
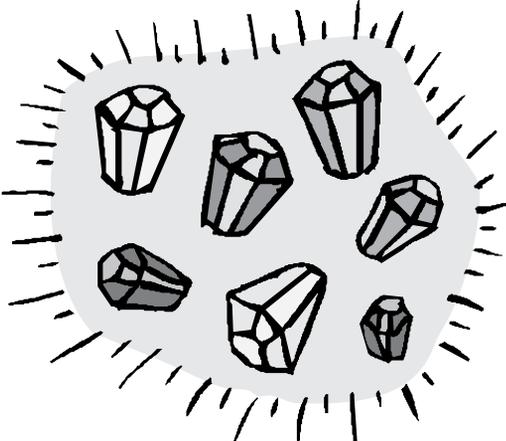


# Now & Then



The family in *We're Riding on a Caravan: An Adventure on the Silk Road* made their journey many years ago. In many ways, we live much differently today than the travelers on the Silk Road did long ago. Let's compare and contrast the present with the past!

**Example:**

<p><b>NOW:</b> <b>Going on a Family Vacation</b></p>	<p><b>THEN</b> <b>Traveling on the Silk Road</b></p>
<p>Vacationers bring cash, checks, and debit cards with them to purchase the goods and services they want on their trip.</p> 	<p>Travelers brought gems, silk, spices, and furs with them so that they could barter for the goods and services they wanted on their journey.</p> 

# Now & Then Activity Cards

## NOW:

### Going on a Family Vacation

Vacationers wear jeans, sneakers, cotton t-shirts, and baseball caps.

Most vacations last about one week.

Popular transportation options include car, bus, train, or plane.

Families stop at restaurants to purchase their meals.

Meals consist of hamburgers, pizza, and milk shakes.

Famous U.S. landmarks include the Mississippi River, the Grand Canyon, and the Rocky Mountains.

Popular places to visit include skyscrapers, amusement parks, and Mt. Rushmore.

Well known cities included New Orleans, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C.

## THEN:

### Traveling on the Silk Road

Travelers wore silk tunics, leather boots, and wool caps.

A family could expect to be away from home for at least one year.

Popular transportation options included camels, oxen, and donkeys, which pulled wagons and carts.

Families stop at night and build a fire to cook tea and rice.

Meals consist of goat-head soup, raisins, and fresh melons.

Travelers noted when they crossed the Yellow River, the Taklamkan Desert, and the Tian Shan Mountains.

Interesting things to see were pagodas, bell towers, and Terracotta Warriors.

Well known cities included Xi'an, Dunhuang, and Kashgar.



# Now & Then Activity Board

**Directions:** Remove the Now & Then activity cards from your envelope and match an activity from the present to one that compares to it from the past. When you have placed all your cards, discuss them with your partner or group members. What would you say is *similar* about going on a family vacation now and traveling the Silk Road then?

<b>NOW:</b> <b>Going on a Family Vacation</b>	<b>THEN:</b> <b>Traveling on the Silk Road</b>