INTREPID

Journeys

Jill McDougall





PM

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Intrepid Journeys

Level 29

Running Words 2545 **Text Types** Recount (Informative) pages 2–28
Procedure (Informative) pages 29–30

Curriculum Areas Geography; Humanities – History

Think and Talk About ...

Fact boxes in the book encourage each student to explore the statements further and to share the information with others.

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Explain why there are so many large statues of Zheng He found in China today.
2 Compare the voyages of Zheng He and Christopher Columbus. List the similarities and differences.
3 Suggest what Ernest Shackleton's crew may have done during the months they had to remain on the cold, wet ice floe.
4 Imagine you are Amelia Earhart. Express her thoughts from the time the ice began to build up on the wings of her plane, until the time she landed safely in the soggy field in Northern Ireland.
5 Identify the most demanding decisions Molly Craig had to make during the journey to safeguard the three girls.

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'Voyages of Captain James Cook'.
2 Prepare an information report about one of these voyages.
3 Edit and revise the information report.
4 Present the report in booklet form. Include a map and photographs.
5 Critically evaluate the text content.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 29	Book	Information Report/Exposition	*Cars: Past, Present and Future*
Level 29	Book	Information Report/Explanation	*Mapping the World*

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this text contains names and images of people who are deceased.

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Courage and Daring

An intrepid journey is one that is dangerous and which often requires great courage and daring.

Throughout history, humans have undertaken **perilous** journeys for many reasons. Some are driven by curiosity and a need to explore new places. Others are adventurers seeking fame and fortune, or are **missionaries** seeking to spread Christianity to foreign lands. During times of hardship, such as war, people often undertake intrepid journeys in search of safety.

No matter what the nature of the journey is, it is always accomplished with elements of determination and **fortitude**, as well as a powerful will to survive.

Over time, some people who have undertaken intrepid journeys have become well known for their feats.



Captain James Cook was a famous explorer who undertook many intrepid journeys, including the first European expedition to Australia.

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Zheng He

Zheng He (say: *Jung Her*) was a **navigator** who lived in China around 600 years ago. He was selected by the Chinese emperor to command an **expedition** of sailing ships to far-off lands. The emperor's plan was to demonstrate to other rulers the power and glory of the Chinese Empire.

In the year 1405, the fleet set sail from Nanjing with 317 vessels carrying more than 27 000 people, including sailors, soldiers and **scribes**. The fleet was comprised of 40 warships, as well as 47 transport ships carrying horses, 48 supply ships packed with food and 20 tankers filled with fresh water.



a brass depiction of the Chinese explorer Zheng He

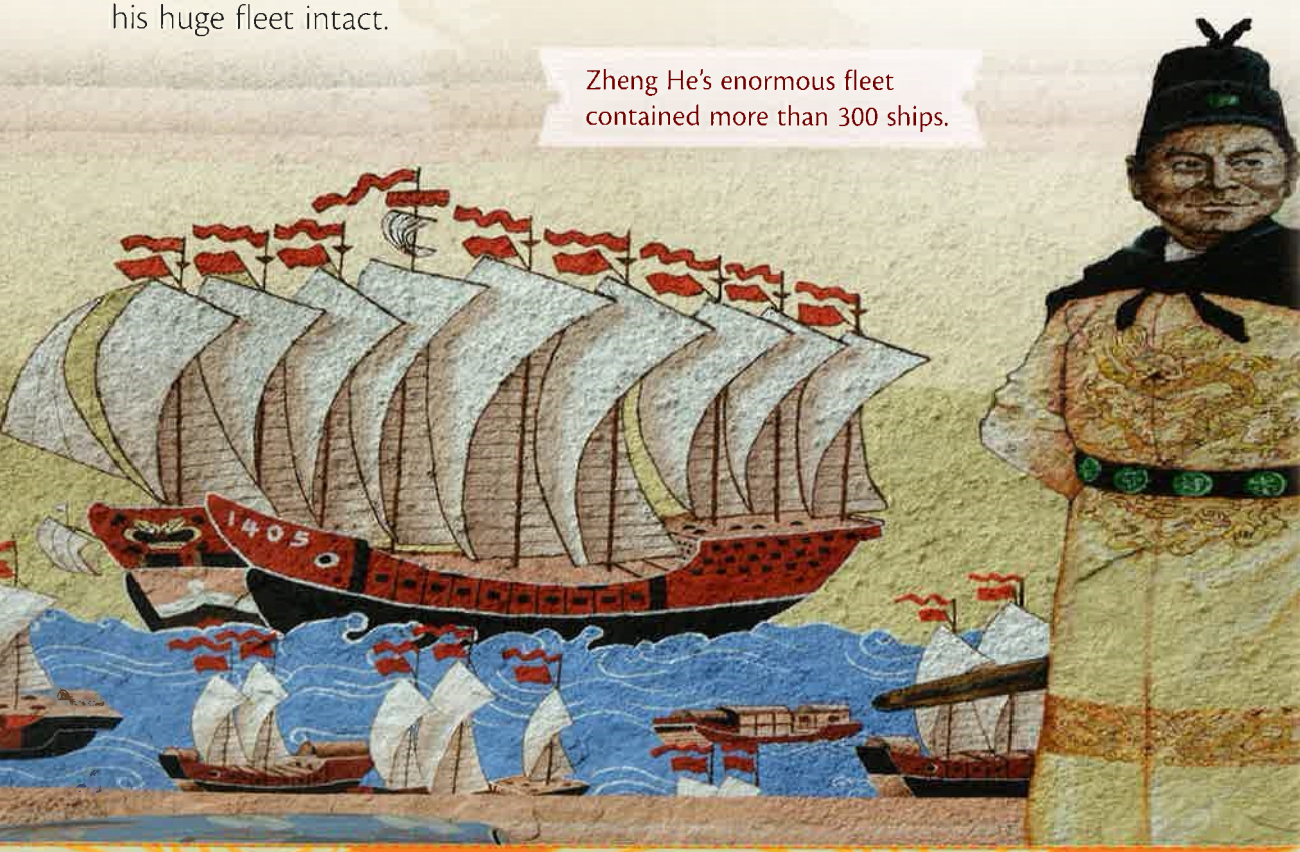
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The largest and grandest ships in Zheng He's fleet were 62 treasure ships painted with fierce dragons to scare away the spirits of the sea. The treasure ships were loaded with Chinese goods, such as silks, cotton and spices, to trade with other nations and to impress foreign rulers.

Zheng He's fleet faced many potential challenges. Shipwreck was a constant danger, especially along the rocky coastlines, and the ships' crews also faced the threat of losing contact with one another in poor weather conditions.

Additionally, bands of pirates roaming the Strait of Malacca near Sumatra (Indonesia) preyed on trading ships. It was Zheng He's responsibility to keep his huge fleet intact.

Zheng He's enormous fleet contained more than 300 ships.



Several important Chinese inventions supported Zheng He in his mission. Detailed maps were drawn on long charts made of paper, which the Chinese had invented centuries earlier.

To aid navigation, they had also invented a **magnetic compass** that helped determine a ship's position far from land. Communication between ships was made possible by drums, gongs and carrier pigeons.



Zheng He navigated with the help of a magnetic compass.

The fleet's first port of call was Champa (South Vietnam), where Zheng He presented the king with magnificent gifts to show that he came in peace. In turn, the king led Zheng He on a tour of his rice fields and temples.

After visiting several other ports where goods were exchanged, the ships crossed the **treacherous** Indian Ocean to reach the west coast of India. For several months, the treasure fleet remained in the ancient port of Calicut until trading was completed, and the ships were loaded with precious Indian spices, including cinnamon, ginger and pepper.

Think and Talk About...

Some of the ships in Zheng He's fleet had vegetable gardens that provided fresh food.

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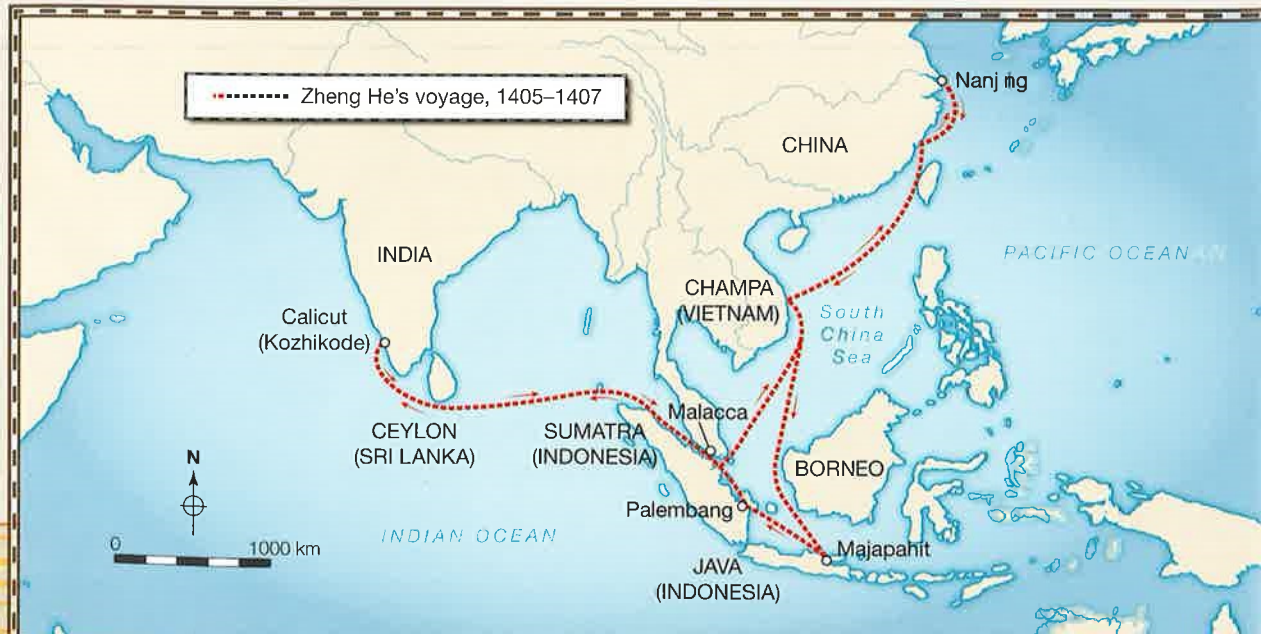
Passing through the Straits of Malacca on the return voyage, the fleet's warships engaged in a fierce battle with pirates. Many pirate ships were destroyed by the well-trained soldiers who aimed showers of flaming arrows at their sails.

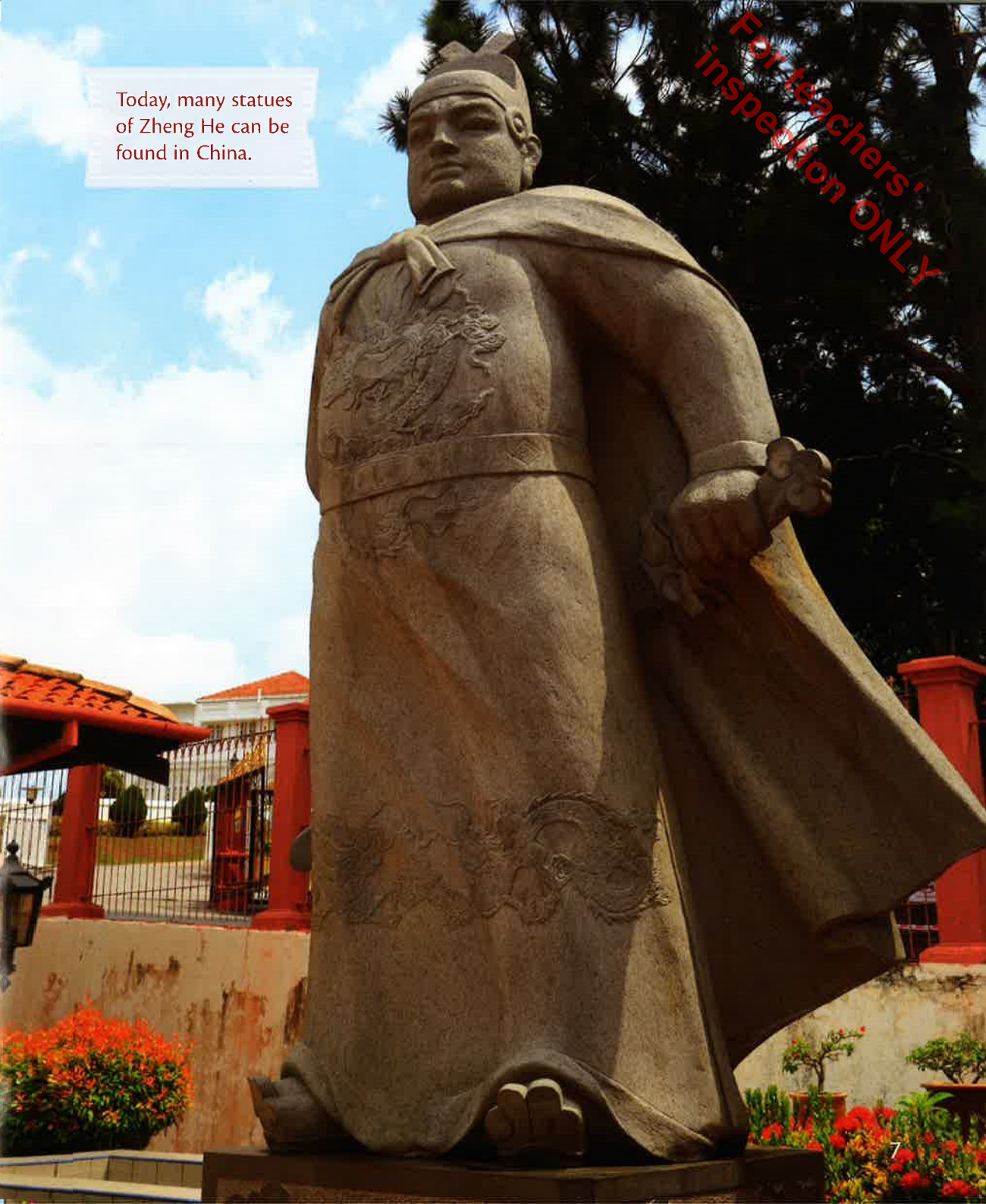
As the ships crossed the South China Sea, they were caught in a violent storm. Towering walls of water, driven by powerful winds, threatened to sweep the ships towards the rocky coast. Scribes on board the ships recorded how Zheng He called to the goddess of Chinese sailors for help, and the seas immediately grew calm.

Finally, after a journey of almost two years, Zheng He brought his fleet safely home. The voyage had been a great success, and the emperor was delighted.

To this day, the voyage of the enormous treasure fleet is believed to be the largest ocean expedition in world history.

Zheng He's Return Journey from China to India





Today, many statues of Zheng He can be found in China.

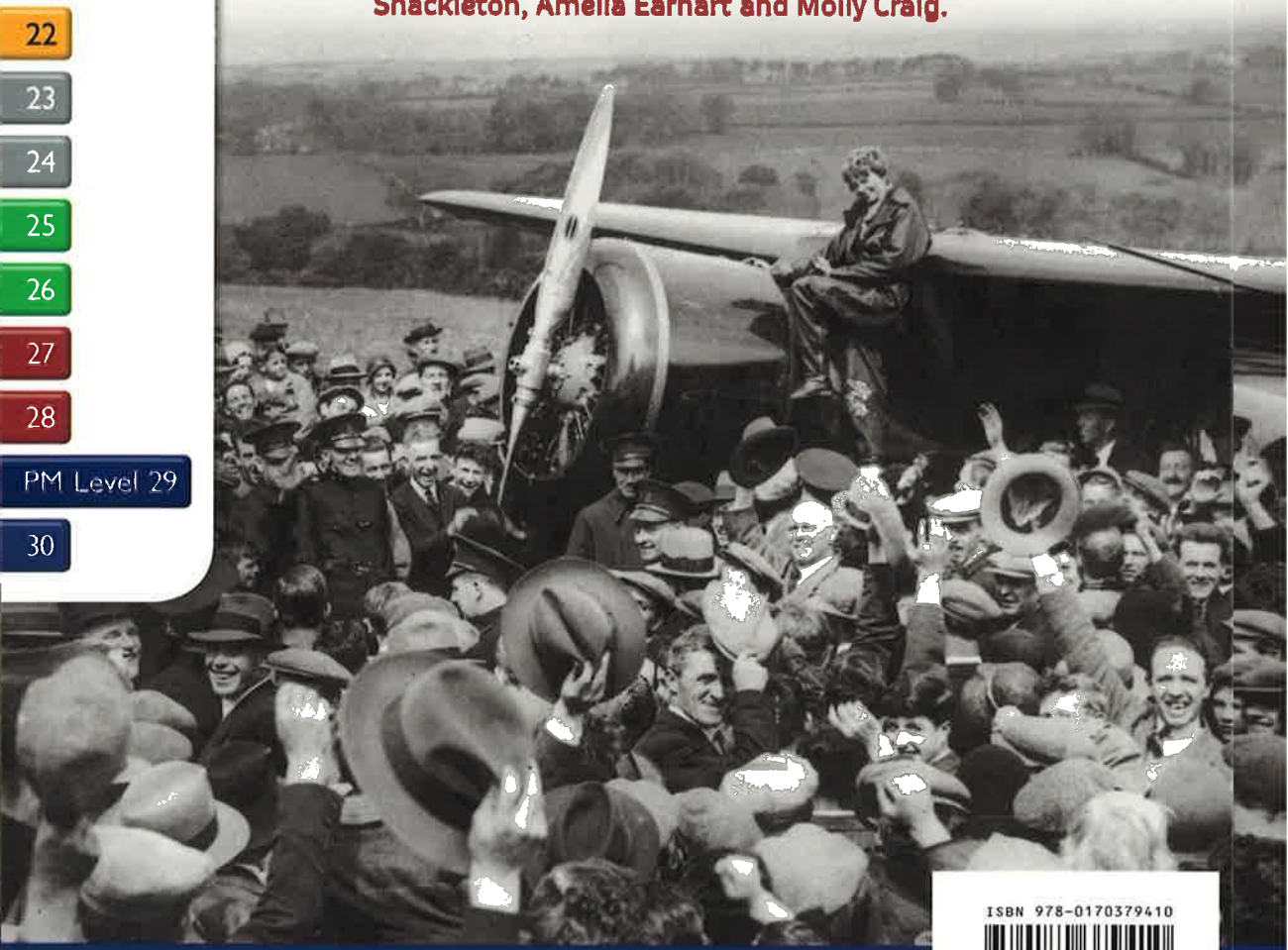
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Throughout history, there have been many famous people who have undertaken intrepid journeys. Some of these journeys have been for fame and fortune, while others were for survival. Find out what made these brave people embark on their treacherous journeys: Zheng He, Christopher Columbus, Ernest Shackleton, Amelia Earhart and Molly Craig.



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