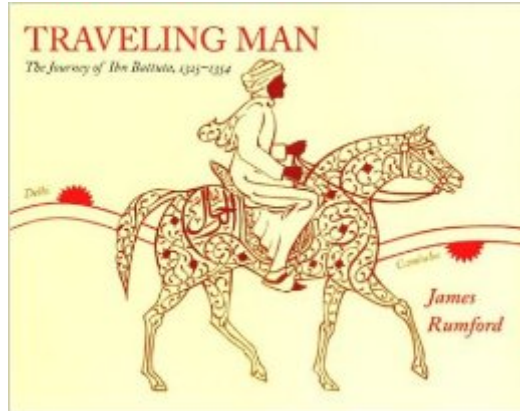


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# Traveling Man: The Journey Of Ibn Battuta 1325-1354



## Synopsis

James Rumford, himself a world traveler, has retold Ibn Battuta<sup>TM</sup>'s story in words and pictures, adding the element of ancient Arab maps—maps as colorful and evocative as a Persian miniature, as intricate and mysterious as a tiled Moroccan wall. Into this arabesque of pictures and maps is woven the story not just of a traveler in a world long gone but of a man on his journey through life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD650L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (May 25, 2004)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 10.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #342,627 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in— Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East #132 in— Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #179 in— Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

"In the days when the earth was flat and Jerusalem was the center of the world, there was a boy named Ibn Battuta." So begins *Traveling Man*, the eloquent story of a fourteenth century, Moroccan man's 75,000 mile, worldwide expedition. Heading first to Egypt, then on to Jerusalem, and Arabia to Mecca. He then traveled across the steppes of Asia to India, the Maldives, and on to China, thought at the time to be the end of the world, before finally, after 29 years, returning home again. Once home, Ibn Battuta told a court scribe about his journey and many adventures, and this written record is the basis for James Rumford's remarkable and mesmerizing story. His lyrical and engaging text is full of imagery, mystery, and magic, and complemented with elegant, creative, and vivid, artwork, done in hues of gold, red and blues. Together word and art transports the reader to a long ago place and time, on an amazing and fantastic journey. A glossary, afterword, and detailed

map at the end, provides additional information to further enlighten and enhance the experience. Perfect for youngsters 8-12, *Traveling Man* is an evocative masterpiece that shouldn't be missed. As Ibn Battuta wrote..."Traveling - it offers you a hundred roads to adventure, and gives your heart wings!"

What you, as the reader of this and all Jim's books, don't know is that Mr. Rumford has lived, studied and worked in many of the places where his stories take place. He is a linguist, an historian, and an artist. So while this tale and his other stories may seem fictional, the element of realism is very strong. He not only reads and speaks these languages, he has studied how they are written--and seeing the embellishments in this story, you wonder. These symbols are real and accurate, produced by a true Renaissance man.

This is an excellent book for kids and adults alike! It's one of my son's favorite - he is enthralled by Ibn Battuta's adventures and likes to look at the beautiful illustrations. The Arabic script also makes this book interesting; it's not often that one comes across this sort of writing here. For me, it is a simple introductory of a man that I have heard of, but had not known much else. I wish this man is as famous as Marco Polo!

I adore James Rumford's book "*Beowulf*," because not only are the illustrations perfect, but the retelling is first rate, and the words he uses all have roots in the AngloSaxon languages. Impressive. I was prepared to love this book - the story of Ibn Battuta's travels made an impression on me (I read Ross E. Dunn's "*The Adventures of Ibn Battuta*" a few years ago - it's for grown ups.) and I have loved children's picture books about Marco Polo (Demi) and Mansa Musa (Kephra Burns) - other medieval wanderers. The illustrations on the end papers are interesting and whet your appetite, but the book itself was not satisfying. Some great illustrations, but too many pages are nothing more than the road symbolically traveling across a page with a few quotes from travelers tacked on, or maybe some script writing in Persian or Arabic or Chinese. That's neat, and it shows the research and detail that went into the book (see the Notes section)... but it means the pages are often fairly blank. What illustrations there are, are heavenly.

This picture book is a beautifully illustrated picture book of one man's journey to Mecca. As a Christian, I appreciated this book for an explanation of the Muslims'a pilgrimage without being inundated with a lot of emphasis on the religion. It was more of a tale of the journey itself, filled with

cultural imagery. The illustrations are lovely and creatively show the handwriting, animals, geography, architecture, and other elements of that time period and region.

In twenty nine years of travelling, the Moroccan scholar Ibn Battuta journeyed nearly seventy five thousand miles. His wanderings took him as far afield as India, China, Central Asia and the coasts of East and West Africa. During his travels, Ibn Battuta had many adventures and saw nearly the entire Islamic world. James Rumford's "Travelling Man" carefully traces Ibn Battuta's many trips. Rumford is a talented writer and uses a light touch to tell Ibn Battuta's story. My only criticism is that Rumford's touch is almost too light. It is a fascinating story and I wish Rumford had included much more detail.

Travelling Man: The Journey of Ibn Battuta by James Rumford is a extraordinary beautiful illustrated book. I did not realise this book was an illustrated book with little text, but this book is a rare occurrence when a contemporary author meets the need of a really old tale and Mr Rumford does it magnificently. It is my impression that Mr Rumford might have been studying lots of very difficult arts to accomplish this advanced reading book: the maps, the calligraphy, the tale all converge in harmonious balance, providing harmonious equilibrium for those readers that venture to seek the travellers point of view. Being grateful for this reading, I am.

This is a wonderful book for a child, or for an adult with an eye for the lovely art that graces it. For the adult, it will lead inevitably to a more adult account of Ibn Battuta's travels -- and a hint at all the history that is out there that we don't get in our high school text books!

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