





# THE SILK ROAD

[Silk Road Video 5 min](#)



Marco Polo commercial

# Vocabulary



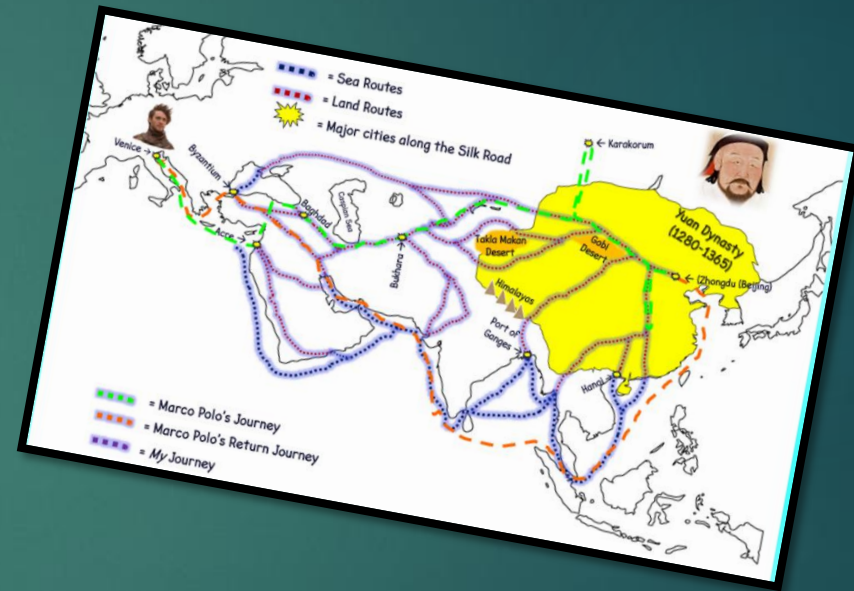
Caravan- a group of people, especially traders or pilgrims, that traveled together

Bandits- person who commits crimes such as extortion, robbery, and murder

Merchant- a person involved in trade or commerce.

# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Follow along to turn your blank map into an informational resource about Marco Polo, the Mongols, and the Silk Road...



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 1: Decide which color will represent land routes, sea routes, and cities, then create this key



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 2: Label the city of Venice on your map and use a colored star



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 4: Marco Polo was born in Venice, becoming a successful merchant there. Draw a young Marco Polo.





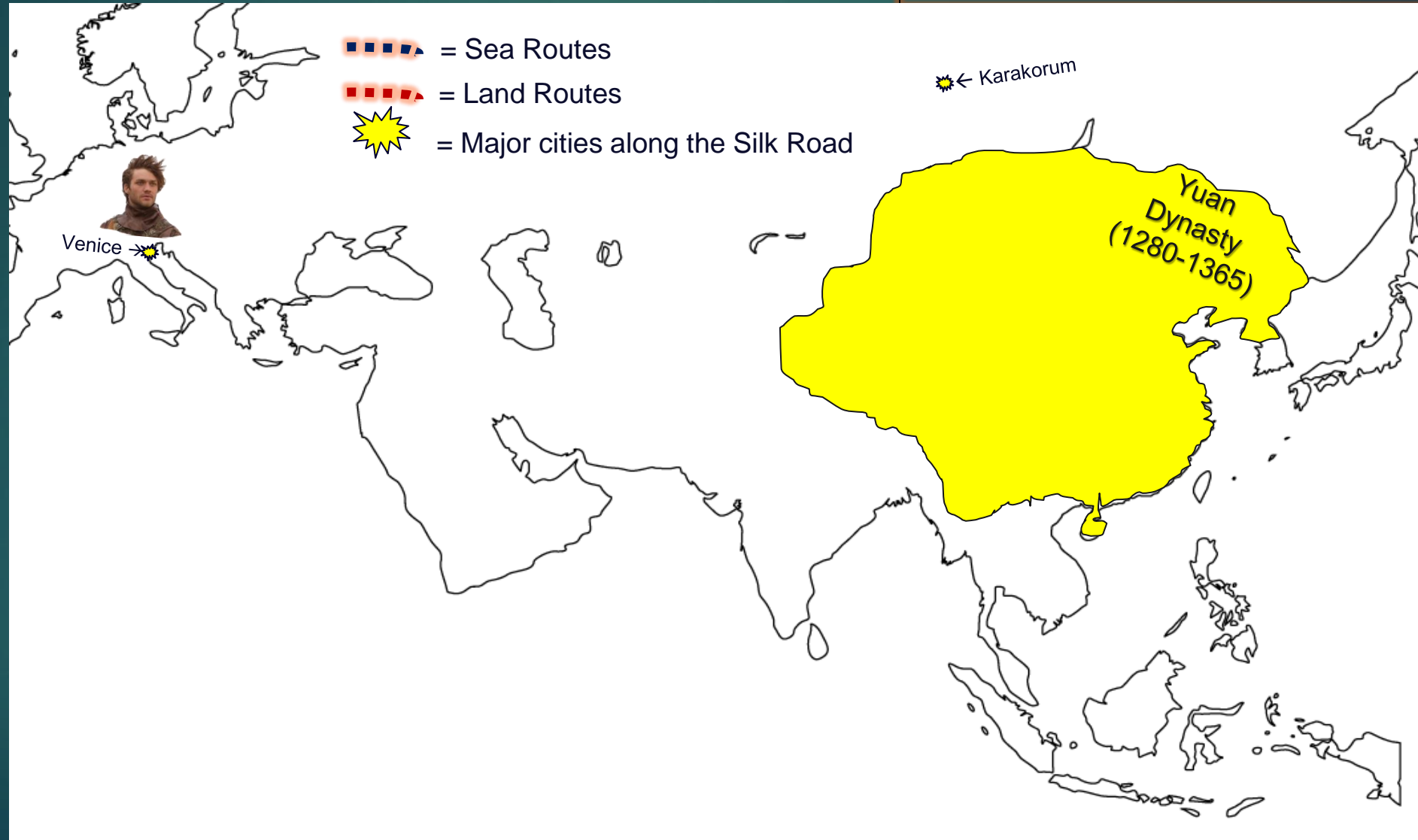
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 5: Label the city of Karakorum, the former capital of the Mongol Empire.



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 6: The Mongols took over China to establish the Yuan Empire. Using a different color, lightly shade in the boundaries of the Yuan Dynasty.



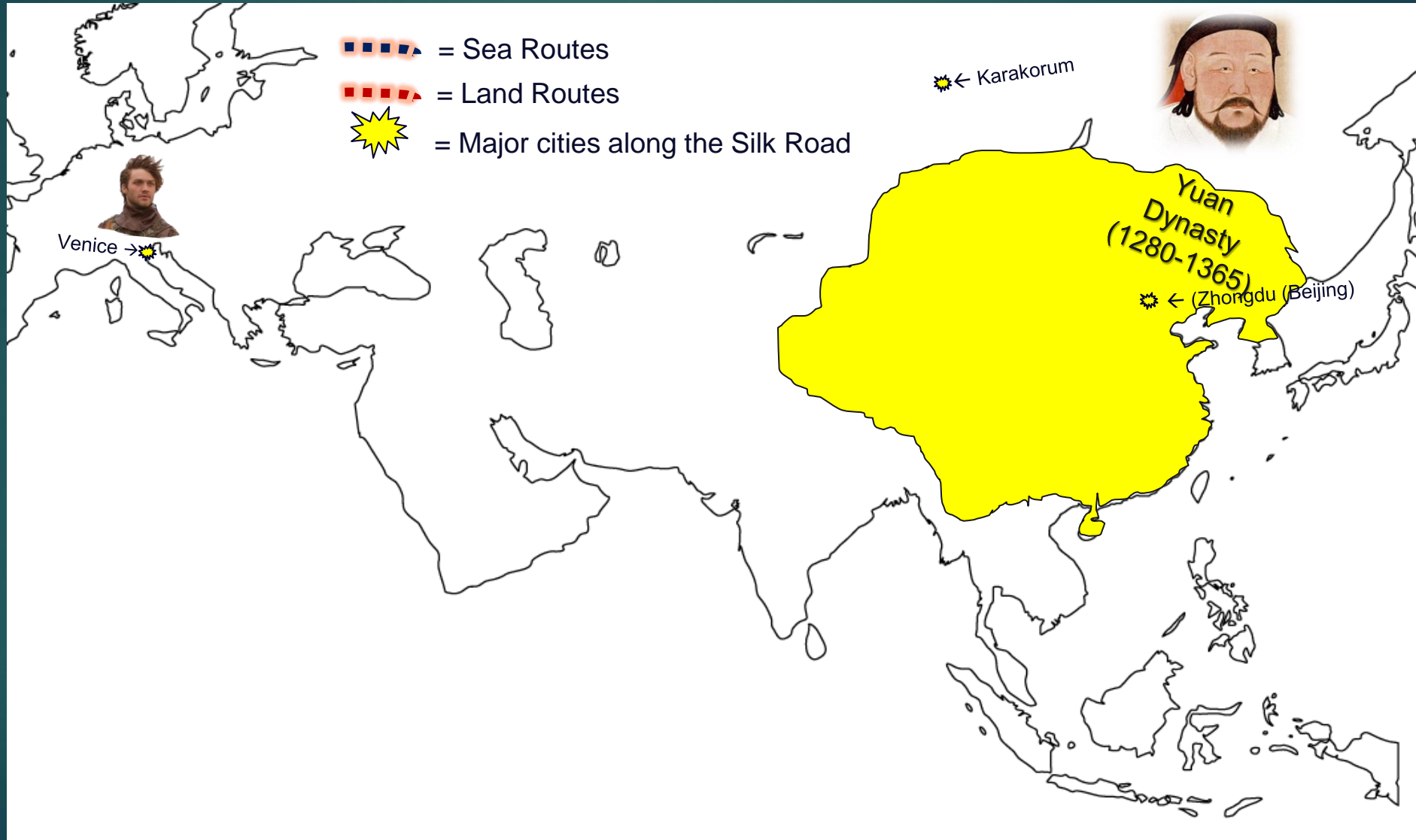
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 7: Kubali Khan moved the Mongol capital from Karakorum to Zhongdu (present-day Beijing). Add this to your map.



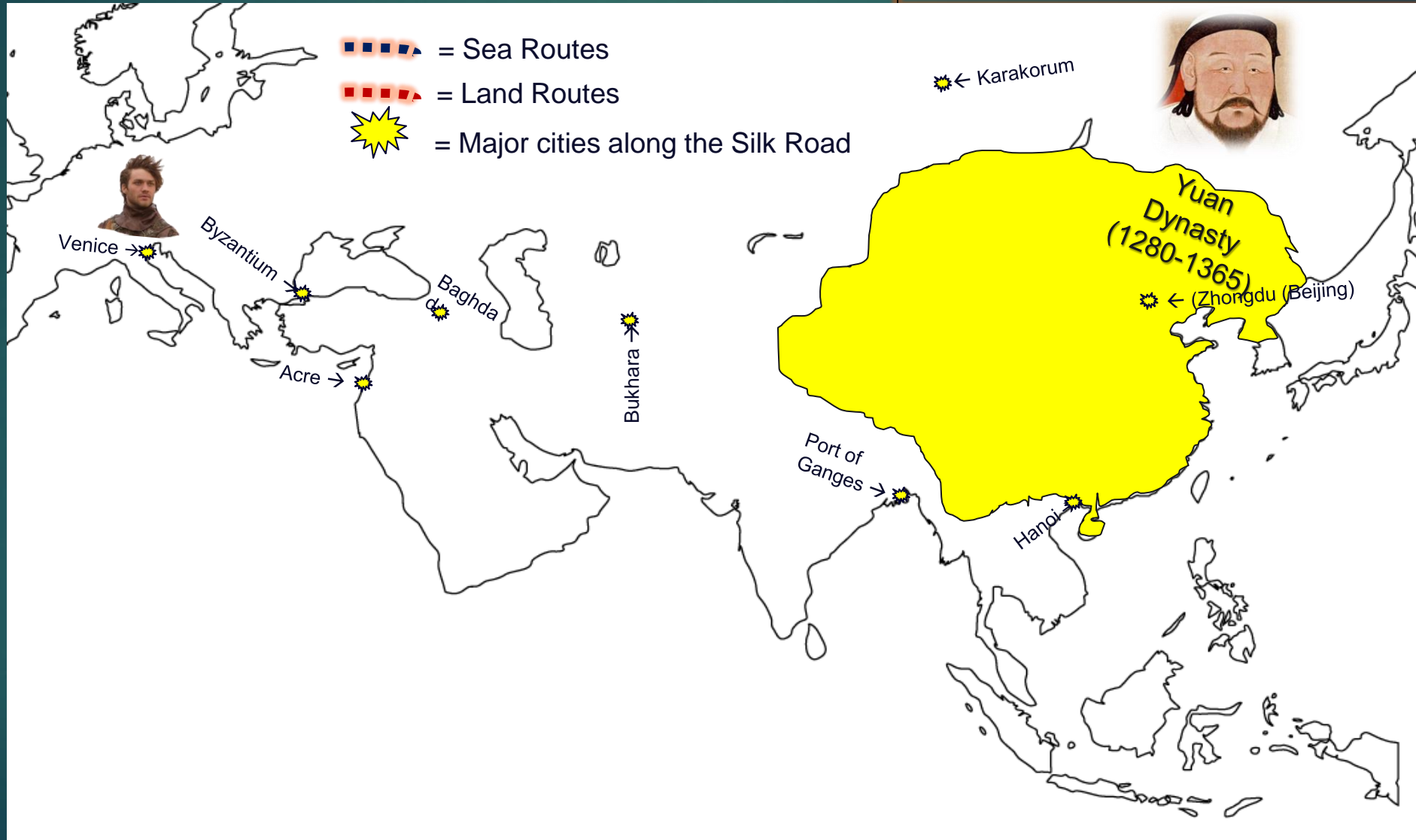
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 8: Draw Kublai Khan near Karakorum and Zhongdu...



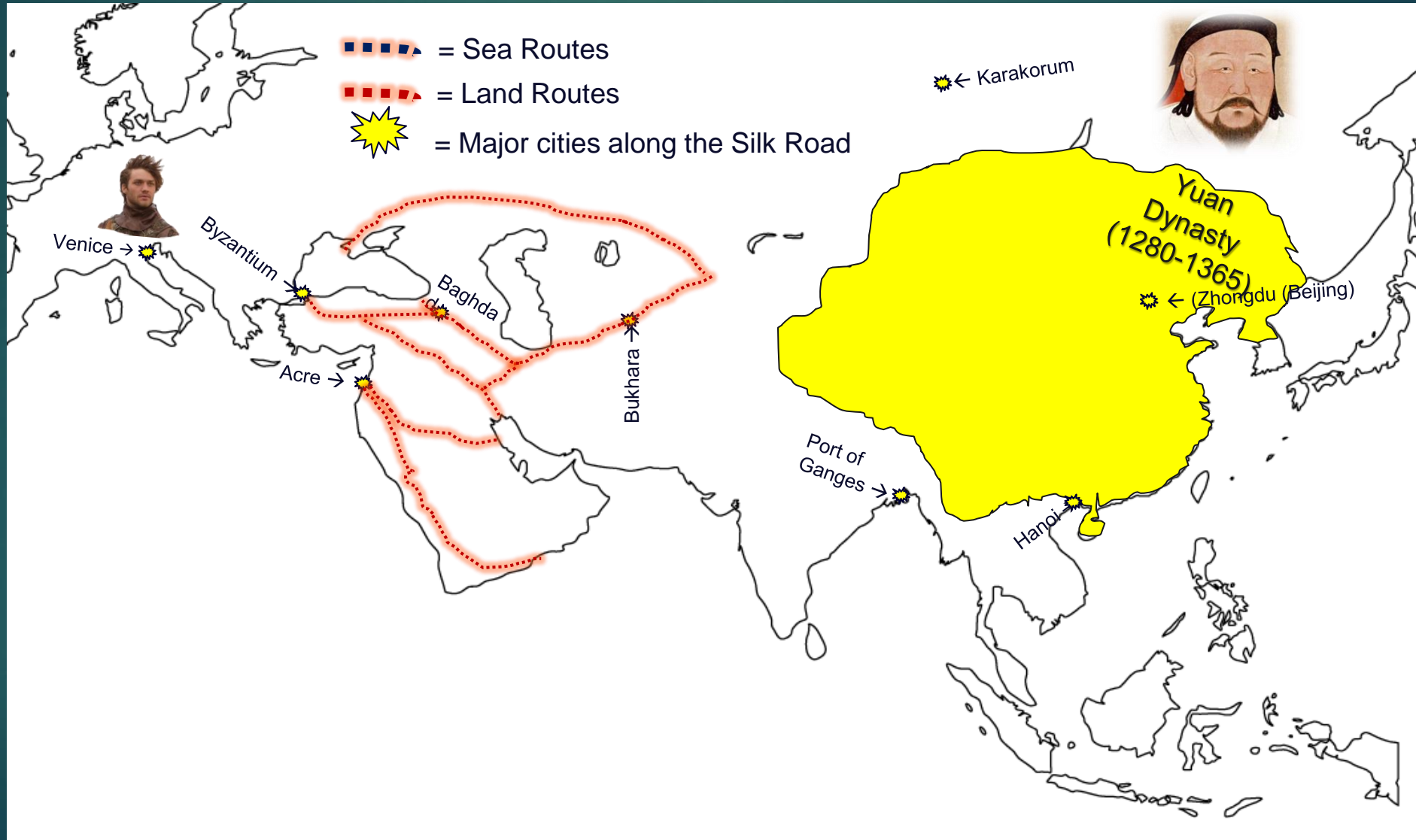
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 9: The silk road was really a series of trade routes between Europe and Asia. Label other major cities along the silk road...



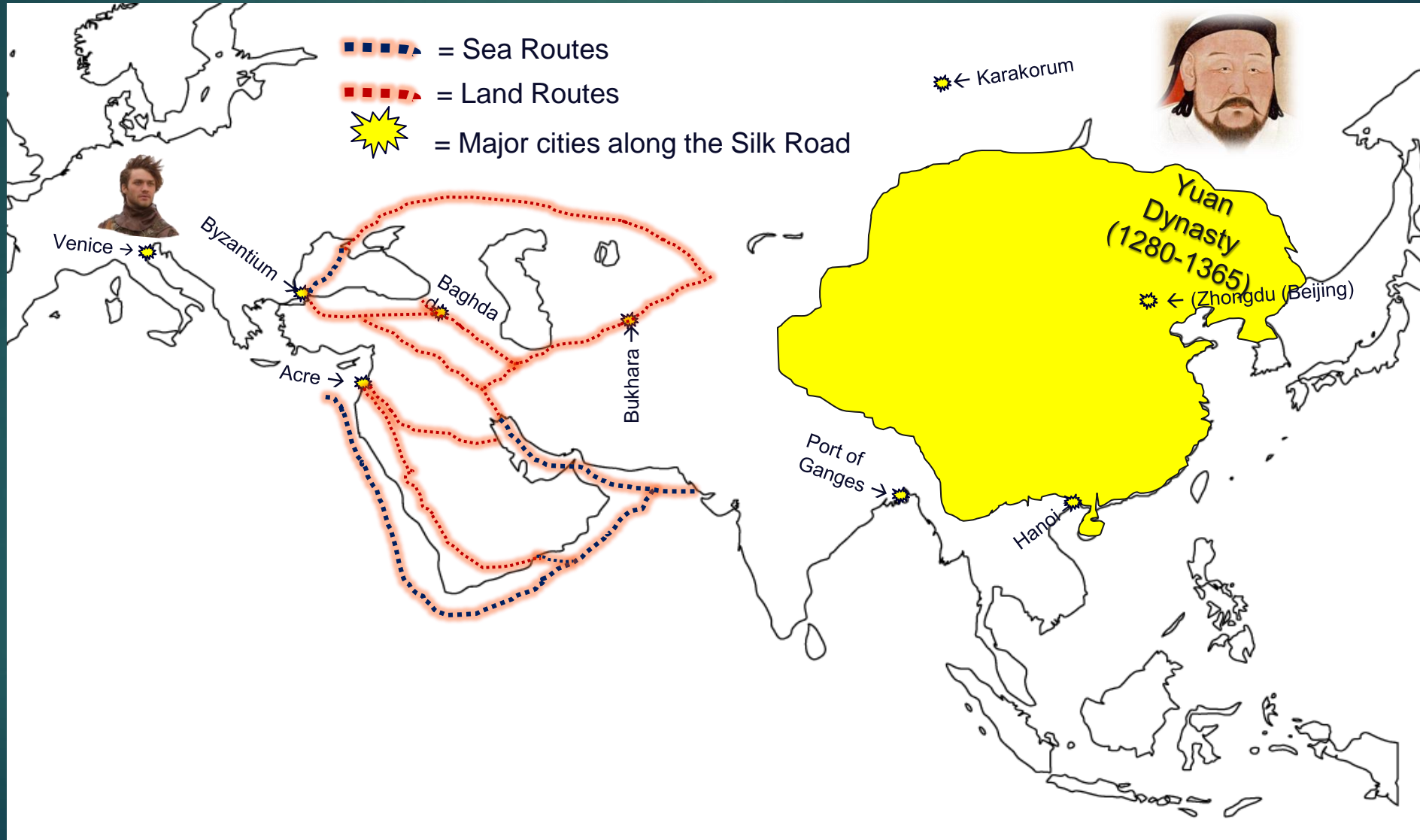
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 10: Using a different color, indicate some of the land routes that could take a traveler from Europe to Asia...



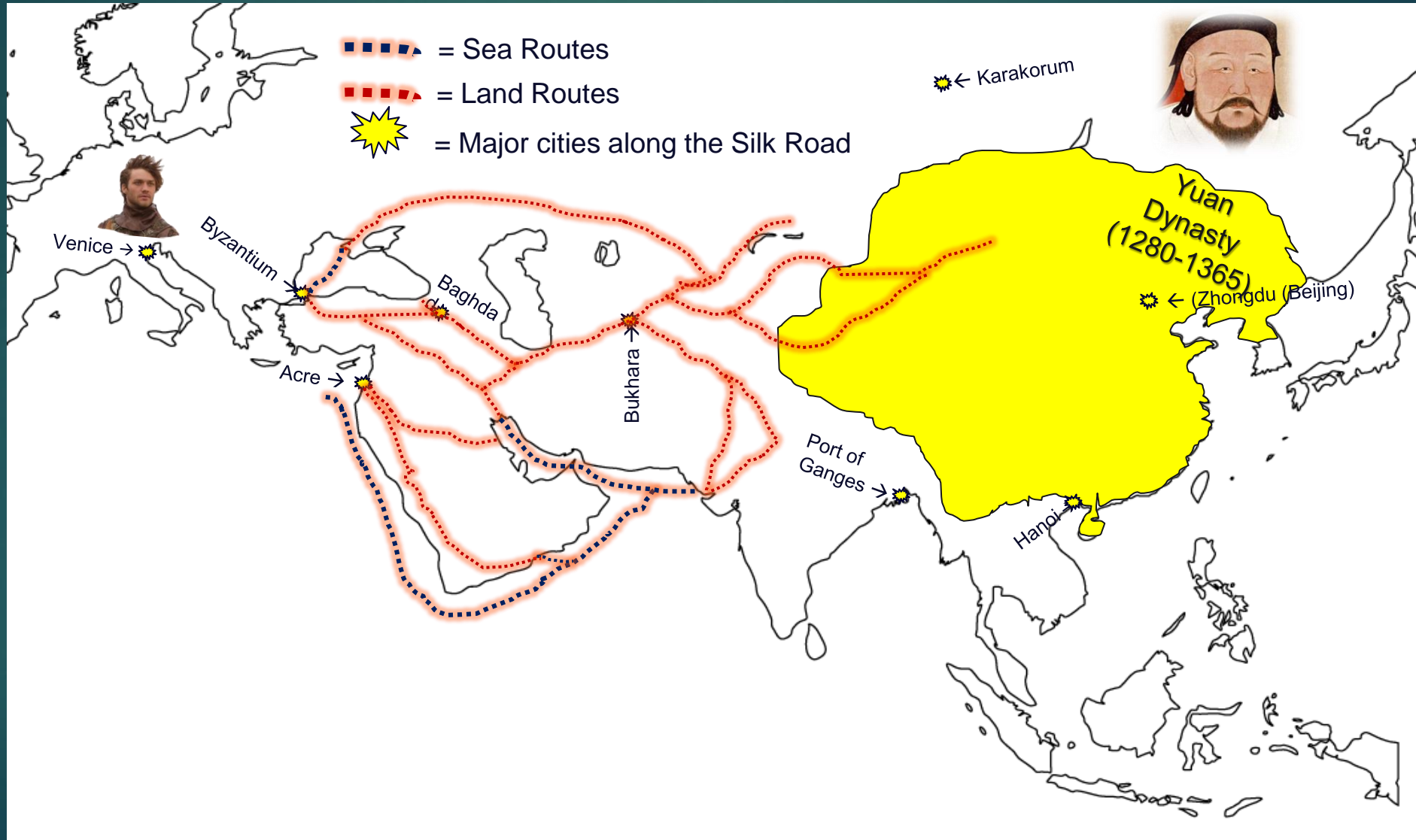
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 11: Using a different color, indicate some of the sea routes that could take a traveler from Europe to Asia...



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

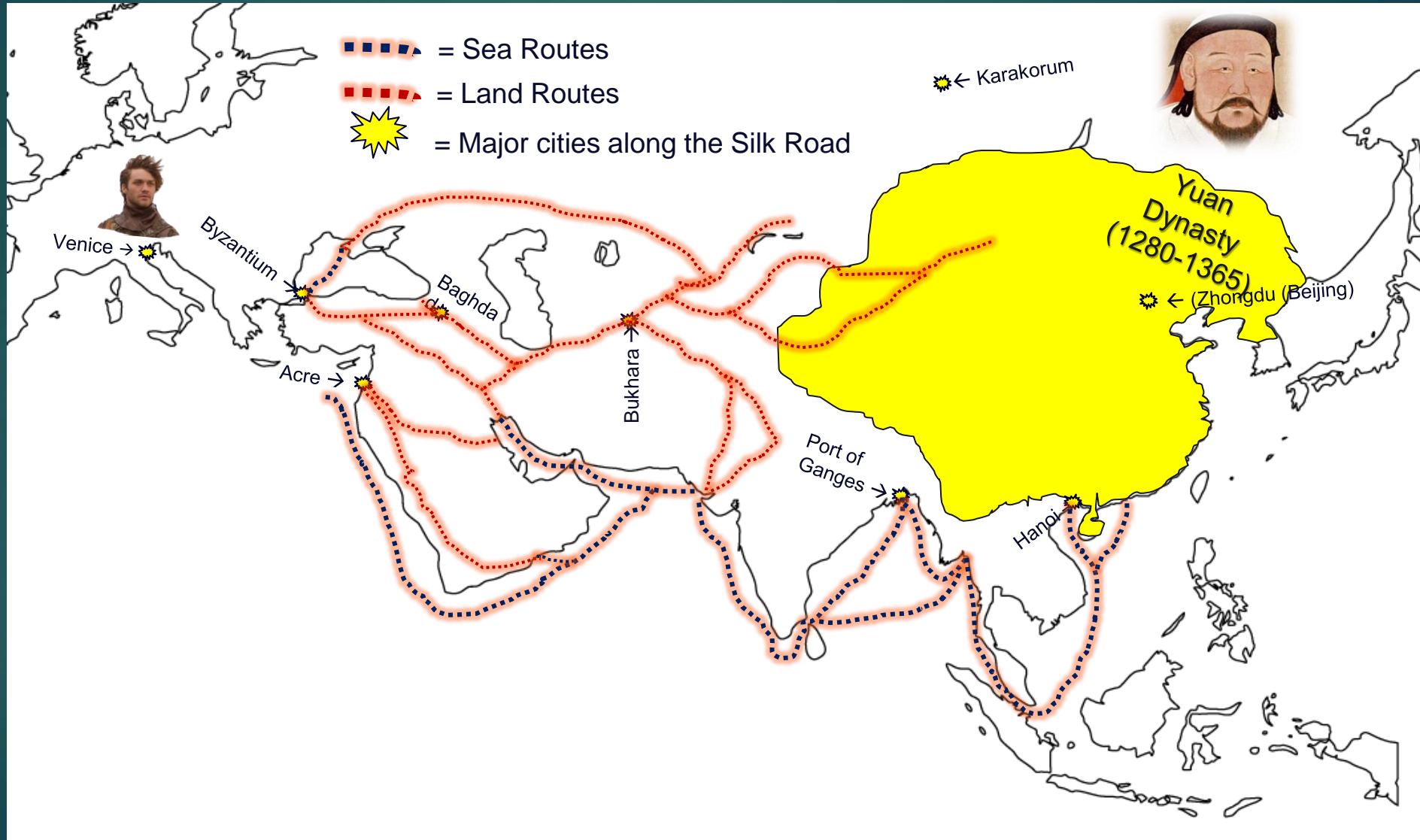
Step 12: Using the same color for land routes, continue the silk road toward East Asia...





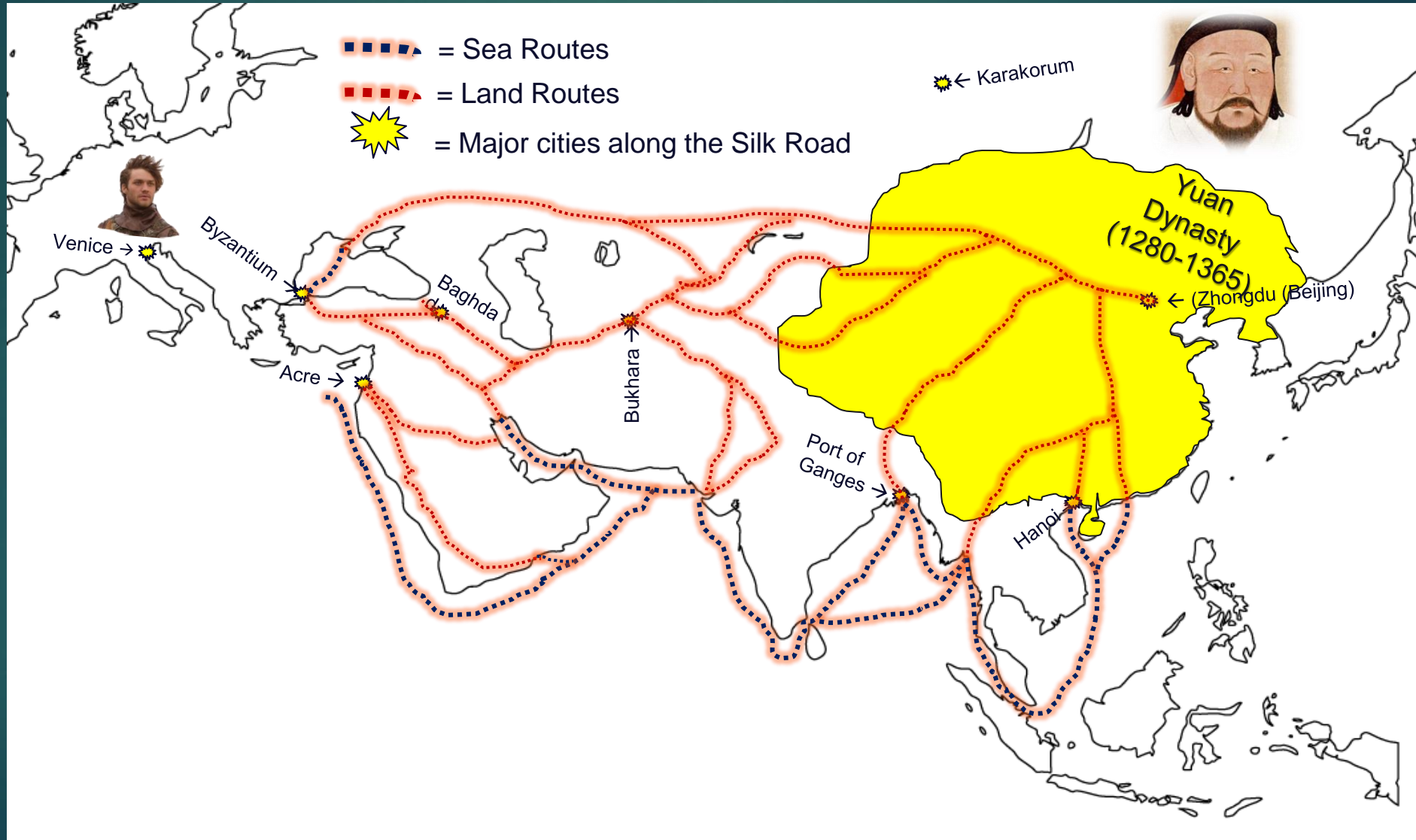
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 13: Using the same color for sea routes, continue the silk road into East Asia...



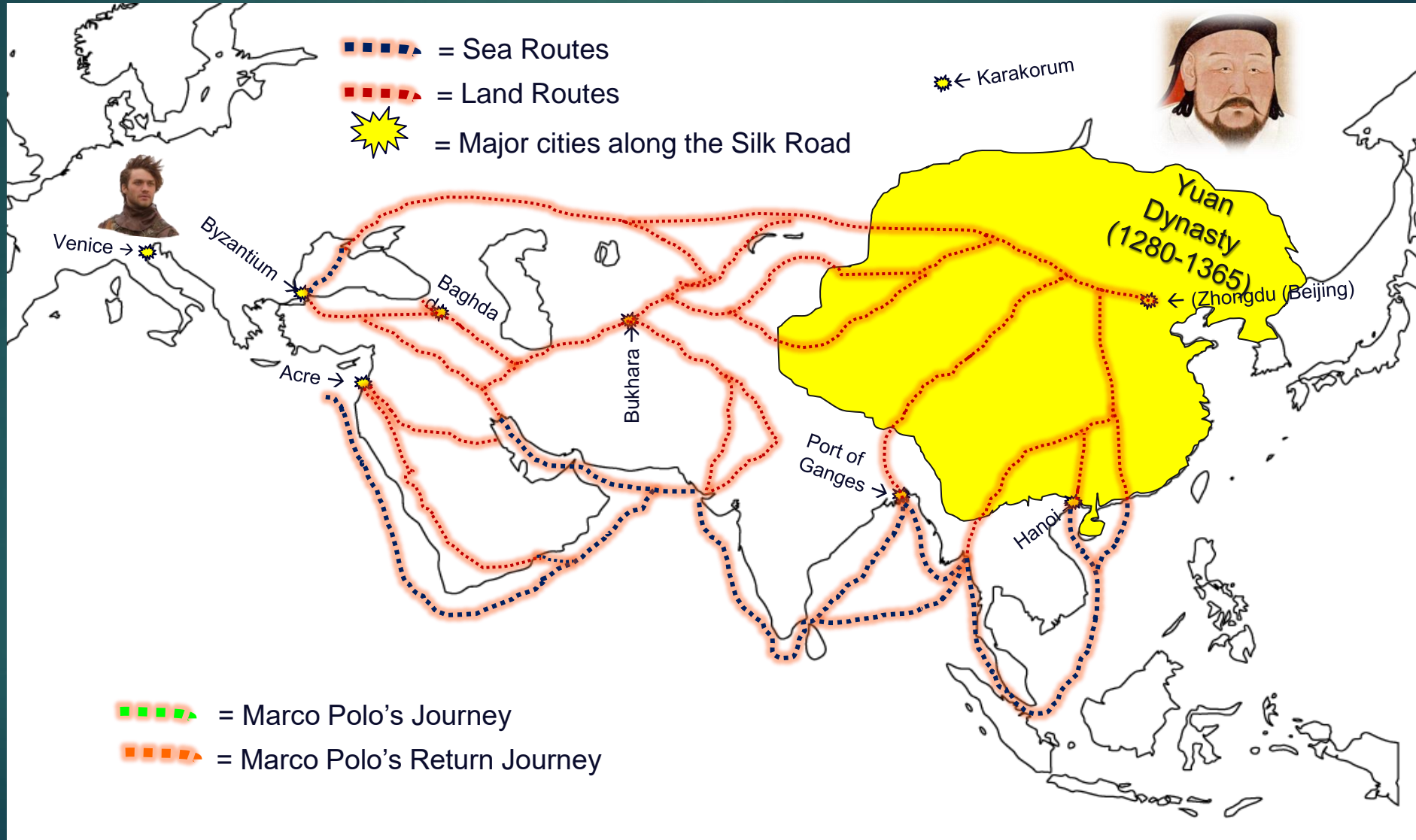
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 13: Using the same color for land routes, complete the silk road in East Asia...



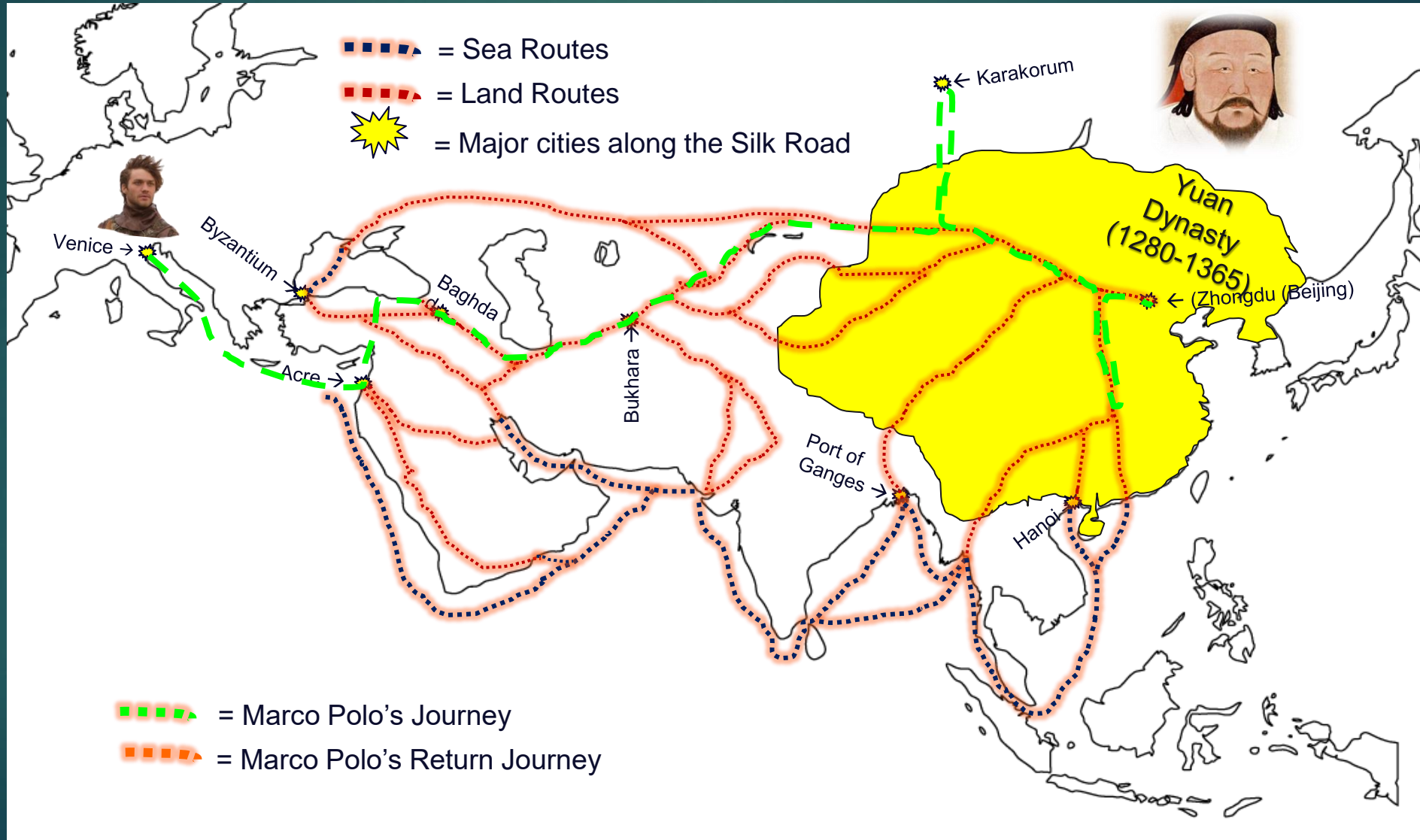
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 14: add two more items to your key with different colors...



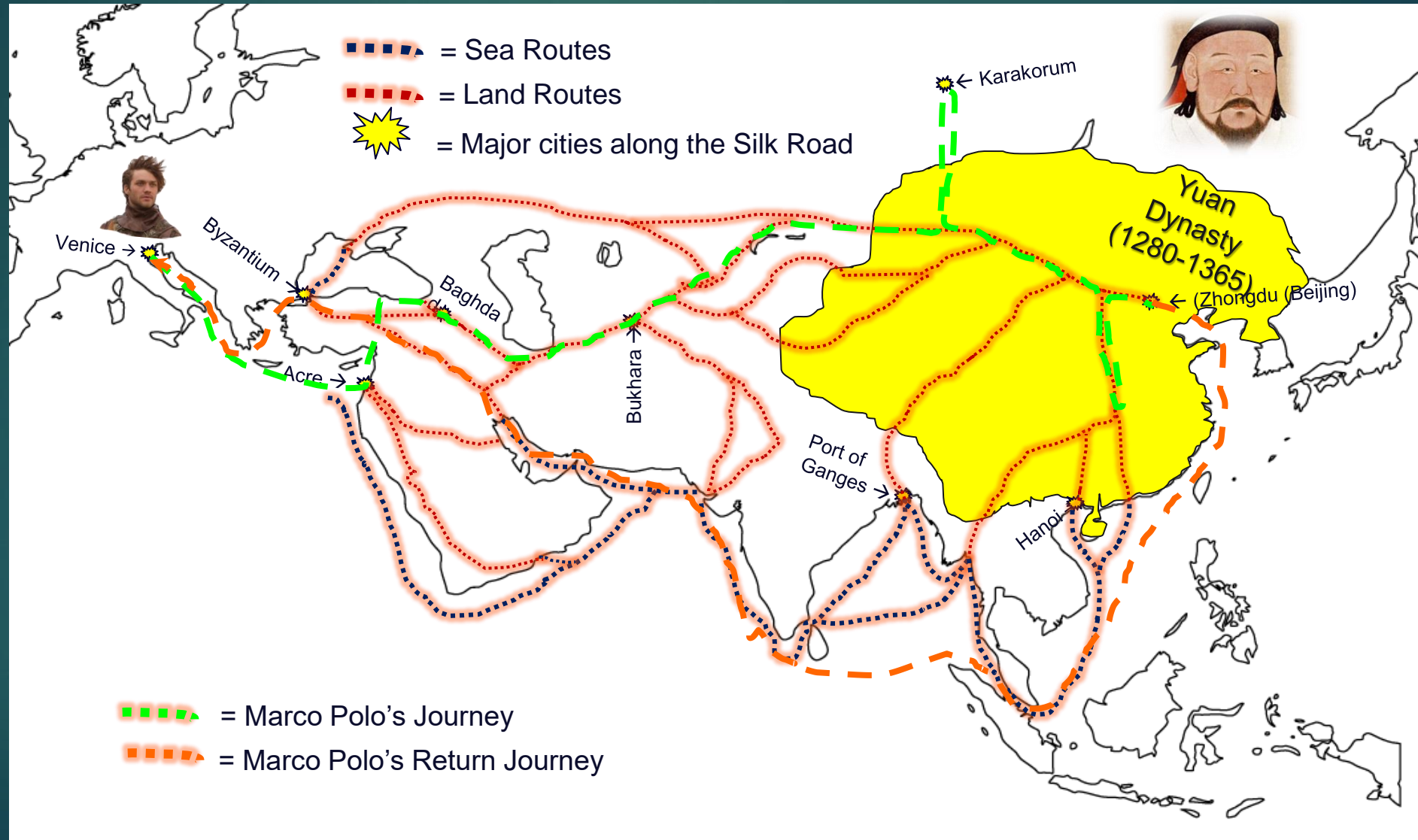
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 15: Trace Marco Polo's Journey from Venice to East Asia...



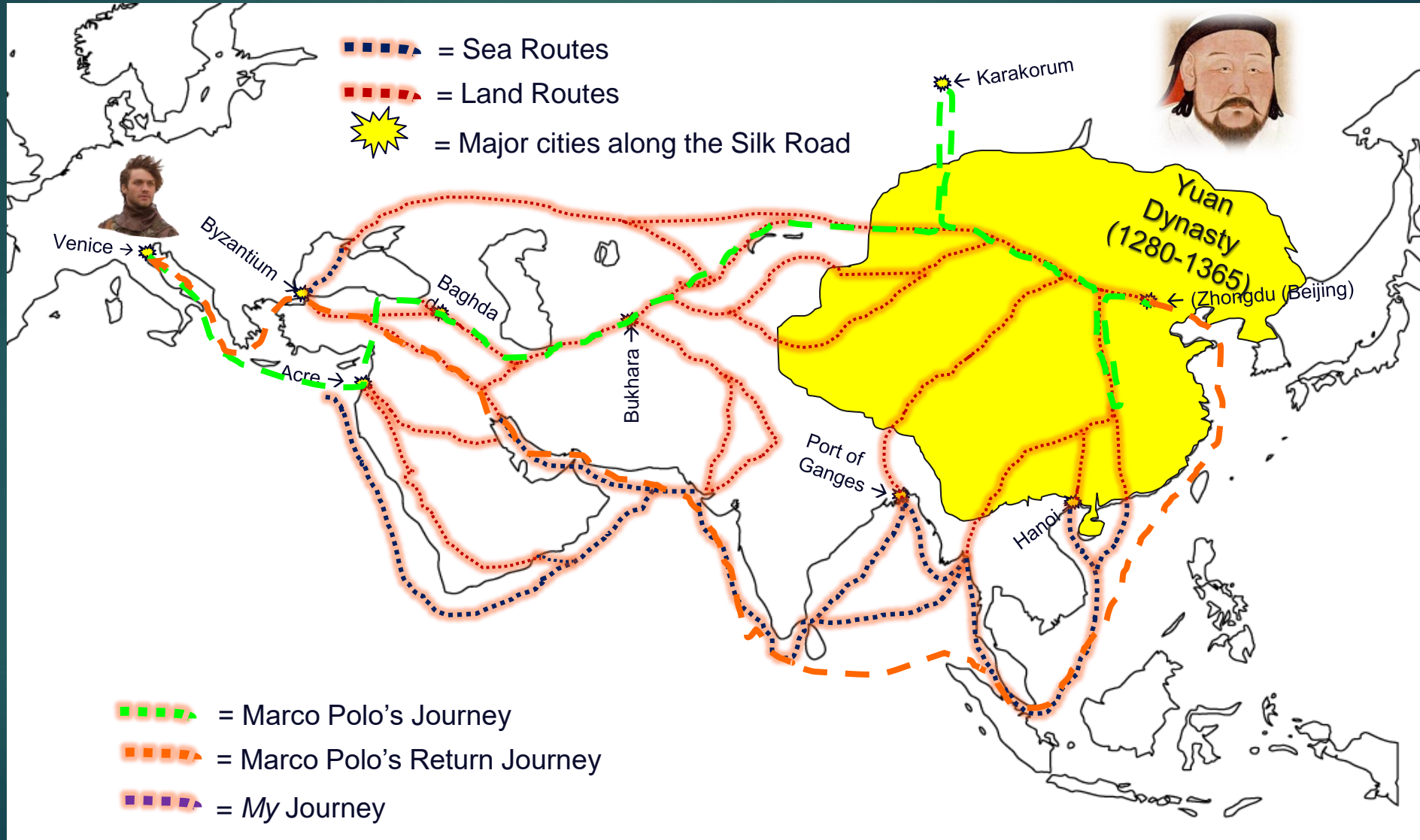
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 16: Trace Marco Polo's return journey (from East Asia back to Venice)...



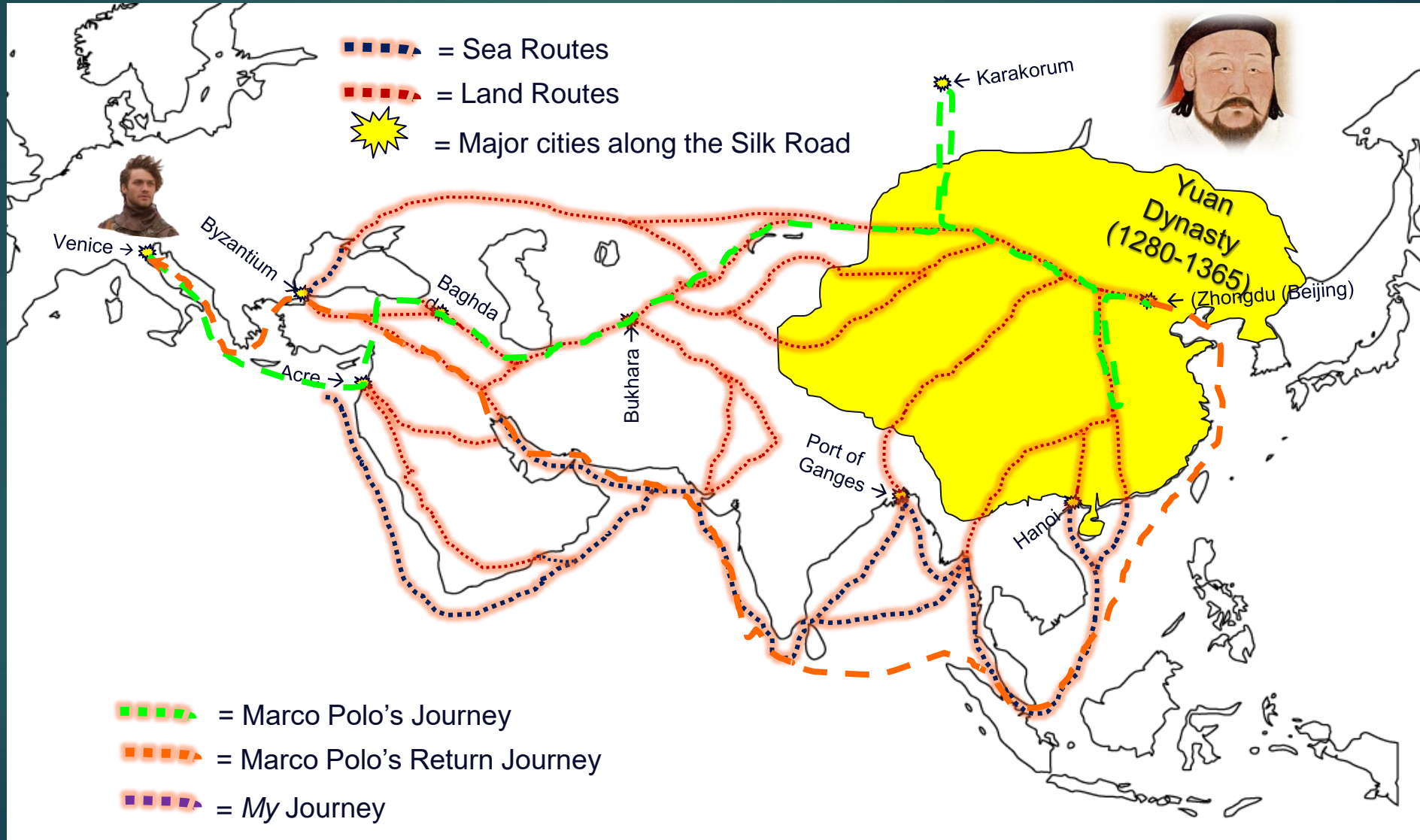
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 17: Add one last item to the key using a different color



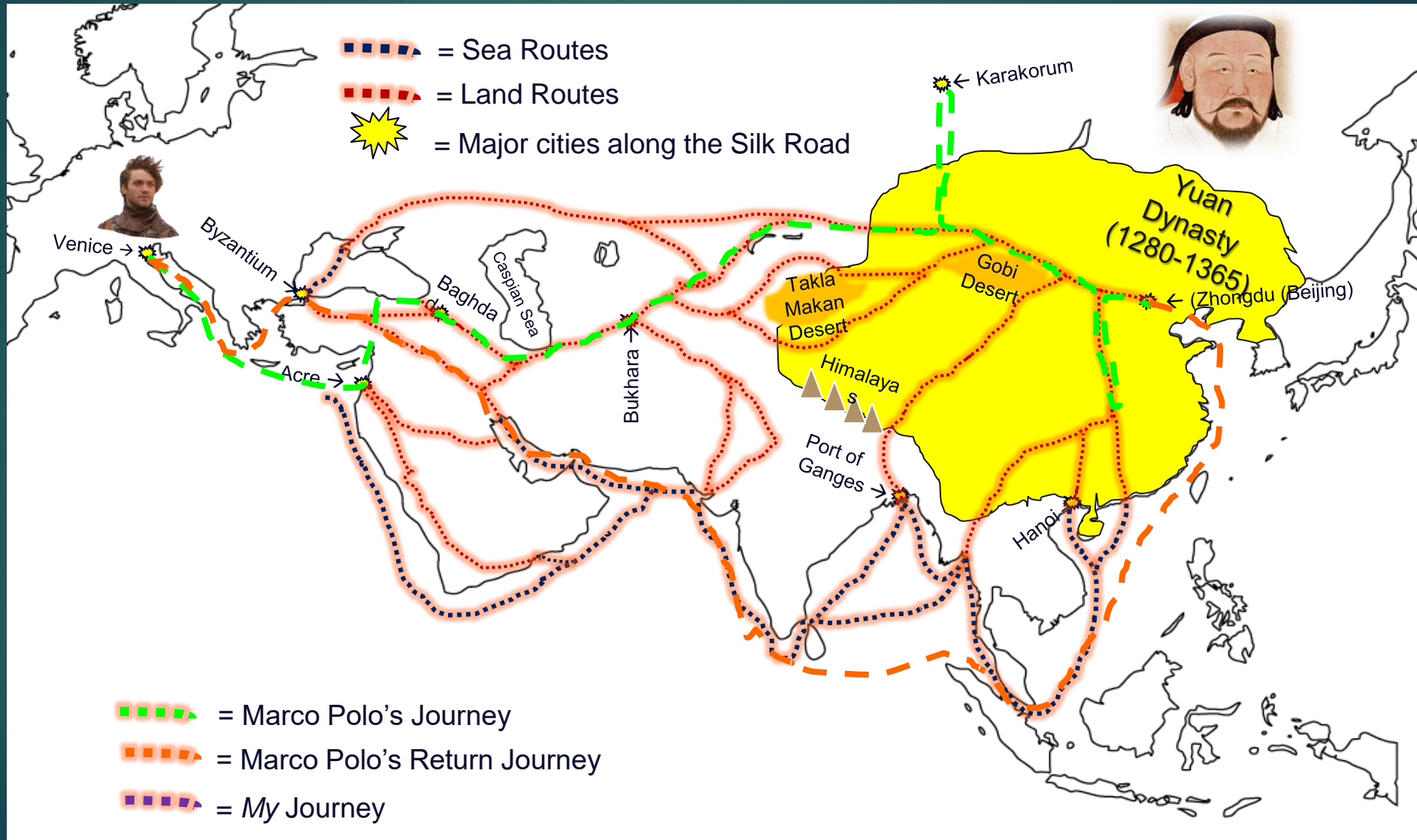
# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 18: Decide whether you would start in Asia or Europe and trace out your own journey on the Silk Road...



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 19: Put these geographic features on your map. This is why it was so hard to travel between Europe to Asia. This is why China was so isolated from other cultures for thousands of years.

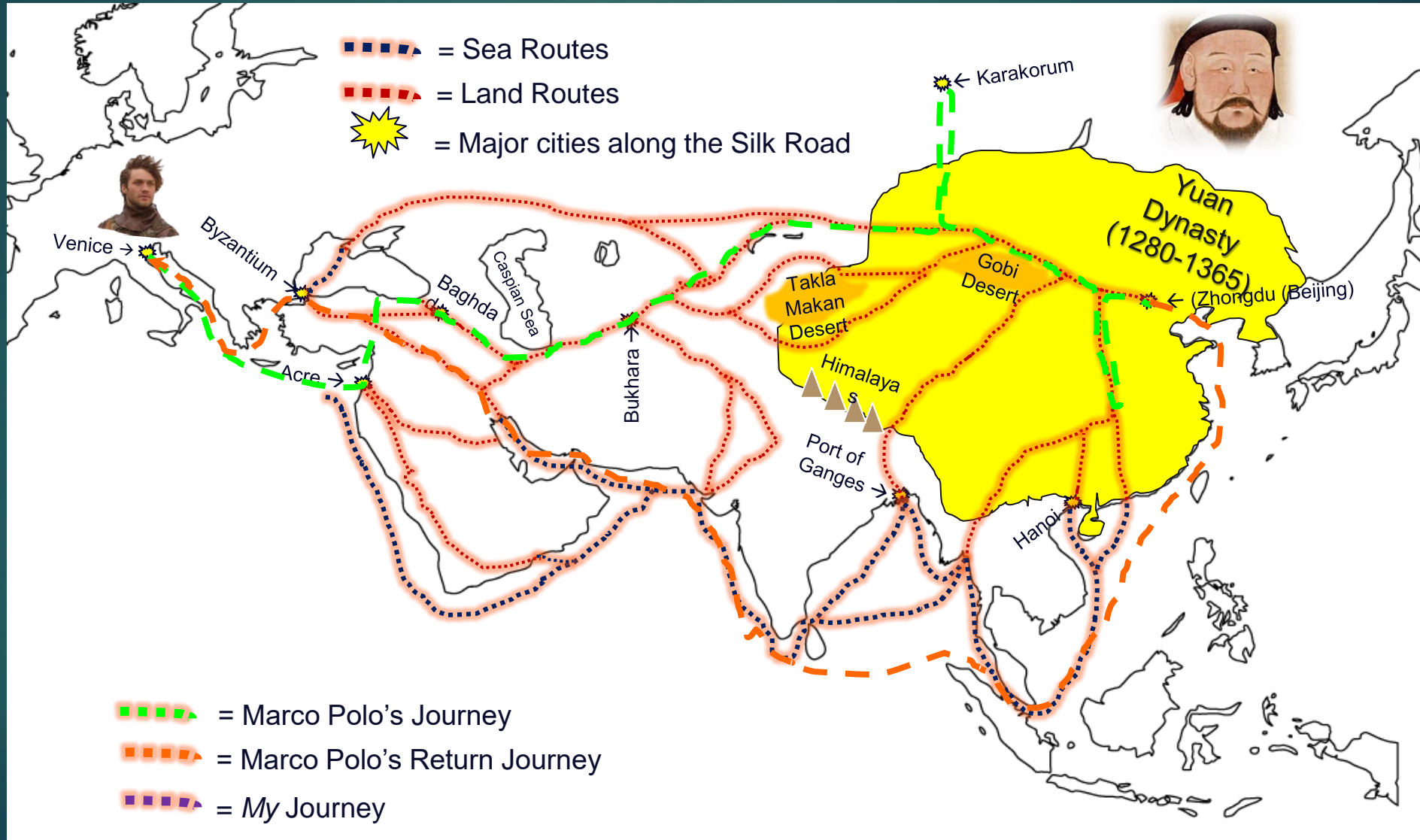




# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

Step 20: On the back of your map, answer one of the following two questions...

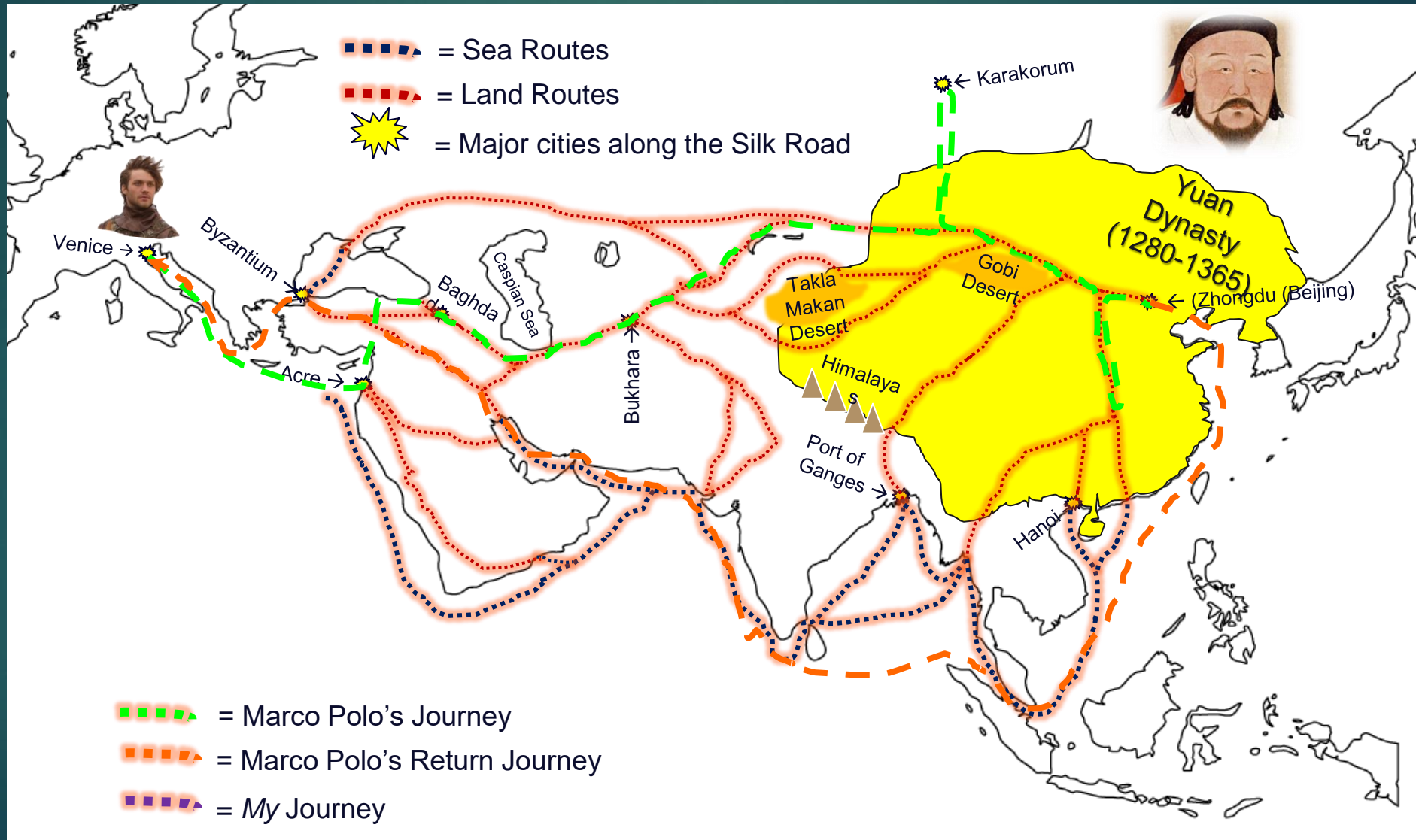
If someone told you “the Silk Road is just a long dirt road”, politely enlighten them in 2-3 sentences...



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road *Map Activity*

Step 20: On the back of your map, answer one of the following two questions...

What is the safest way to get from Europe to Asia or vice versa? Defend your answer in 2-3 sentences.



# Marco Polo & the Silk Road Map Activity

