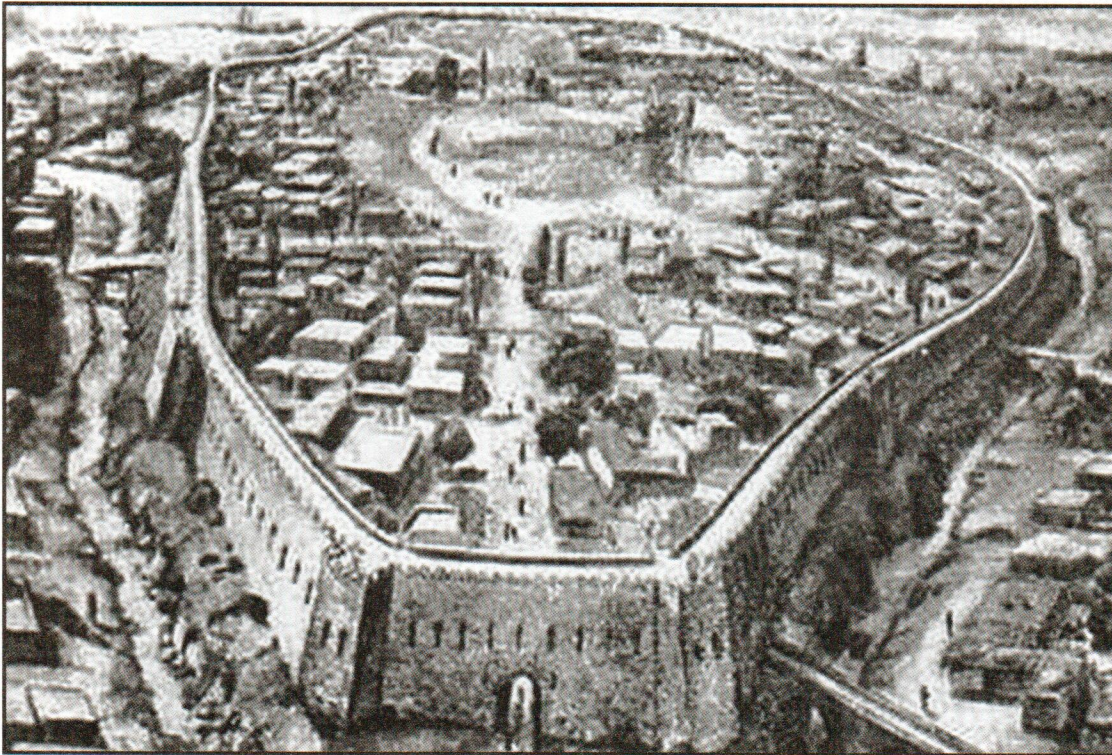


Document D

Source: A description of the Kushan Empire city of Marakanda in *Great Tang Records on the Western Regions*, a book about the Silk Road written by Xuanzang ("shweng-zang"), a Buddhist pilgrim, in 646 CE. Artist unknown.

Note: After crossing the Gobi and Taklimakan deserts, travelers on the Silk Road's northern route had to traverse the rugged Pamir Mountains in Central Asia before arriving at this bustling city. Today, Marakanda is called Samarkand, a city in Uzbekistan.

The precious merchandise of many foreign countries is stored here. The soil is rich and productive and yields abundant harvests. The forest trees afford a thick vegetation and flowers and fruit are plentiful.... Horses are bred there. The inhabitants' skill in the arts and trades exceeds that of other countries. The climate is agreeable and temperate and the people brave and energetic.



Writing Journal Entry #4: Label your journal entry "Marakanda, September 23, 200, Afternoon." You arrived in the thriving city of Marakanda this morning. Once you leave, you will be on the long journey to Antioch, the western end of the Silk Road. What is your impression of Marakanda? How do you plan to spend your time there? Review the map of the Silk Road in Document A. What do you expect from the rest of your journey? Take a few moments to write your thoughts and concerns in your journal.