

Find out more about the
ceramic sherds from
Penny's Bay





In 1975, Dr James Hayes came across some blue and white sherds – broken pieces of ceramic materials – quite by chance at Penny’s Bay on Lantau Island and reported his find to the Hong Kong Museum (now the Hong Kong Museum of History).

Before the theme park was constructed in Penny’s Bay, archaeological investigations were conducted on the site that unearthed **thousands more blue and white sherds.**





Why were these broken
ceramics found in Hong Kong?

Where were they produced?



Let's find out!

Mission 1 – Trace their Origins

Were these sherds made in Hong Kong? Do they look the same?

Locally produced wares



I think
they are
_____ %
alike.

Finds at
Penny's Bay



The locally made blue and white ceramics look quite different from the sherds discovered at Penny's Bay. Let's continue tracing their origins.



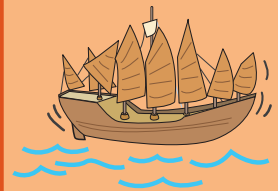
Researchers concluded that most of these sherds were produced by civilian kilns in Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province, in the mid-Ming dynasty.

Products from the Wun Yiu kilns in Tai Po District. The local kilns started operations in the late Ming dynasty.

Mission 2 – Embark on maritime trade

Exports from Jingdezhen, renowned as the national production centre for ceramics in the Ming and Qing dynasties (AD 1368 – 1911), were immensely popular in other Southeast Asian countries.

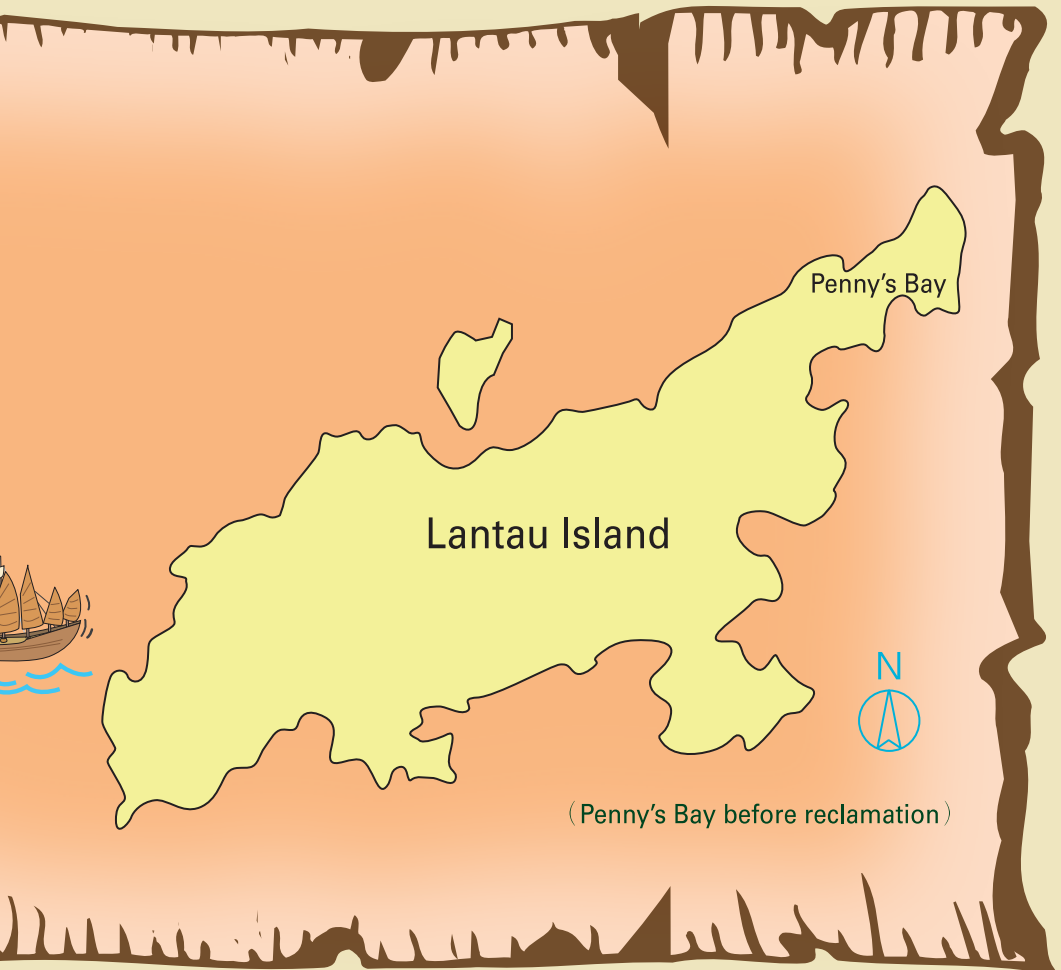
Guangzhou (Canton) was an important port on the ① _____ Route (also known as the “Maritime Silk Route”).



Any ship travelling to Guangzhou had to pass through the Pearl River Estuary. Trading junks would moor in Hong Kong to replenish their supplies of fresh water and other necessities before continuing on their way to Guangzhou.



Located in the ② _____ part of Lantau Island, Penny's Bay provided a sheltered mooring. It is believed that the ceramics unearthed at Penny's Bay were probably damaged and discarded from a trading junk during a voyage from Guangzhou to a destination in Southeast Asia.



In the 1970s, a wooden boat was discovered during the construction of the High Island Reservoir. A number of ancient shipwrecks have been found from the Gulf of Thailand to the South China Sea and Southeast Asia, such as the *Nanhai No.1*, the *Nan'ao No.1* and the *Wanjiao*. Though these ships were unable to complete their journeys, their wrecks provide us with important information about the scale of the Maritime Silk Route.



Answers

① **Ceramic**

(As ceramics were staple goods commonly used for trading, the “Maritime Silk Route” was also known as the “Ceramic Route”)

② **northeastern**

(Why is it called Penny’s Bay? There is no definite answer to this question, but its Chinese name suggests a strong relationship with bamboo poles.)

