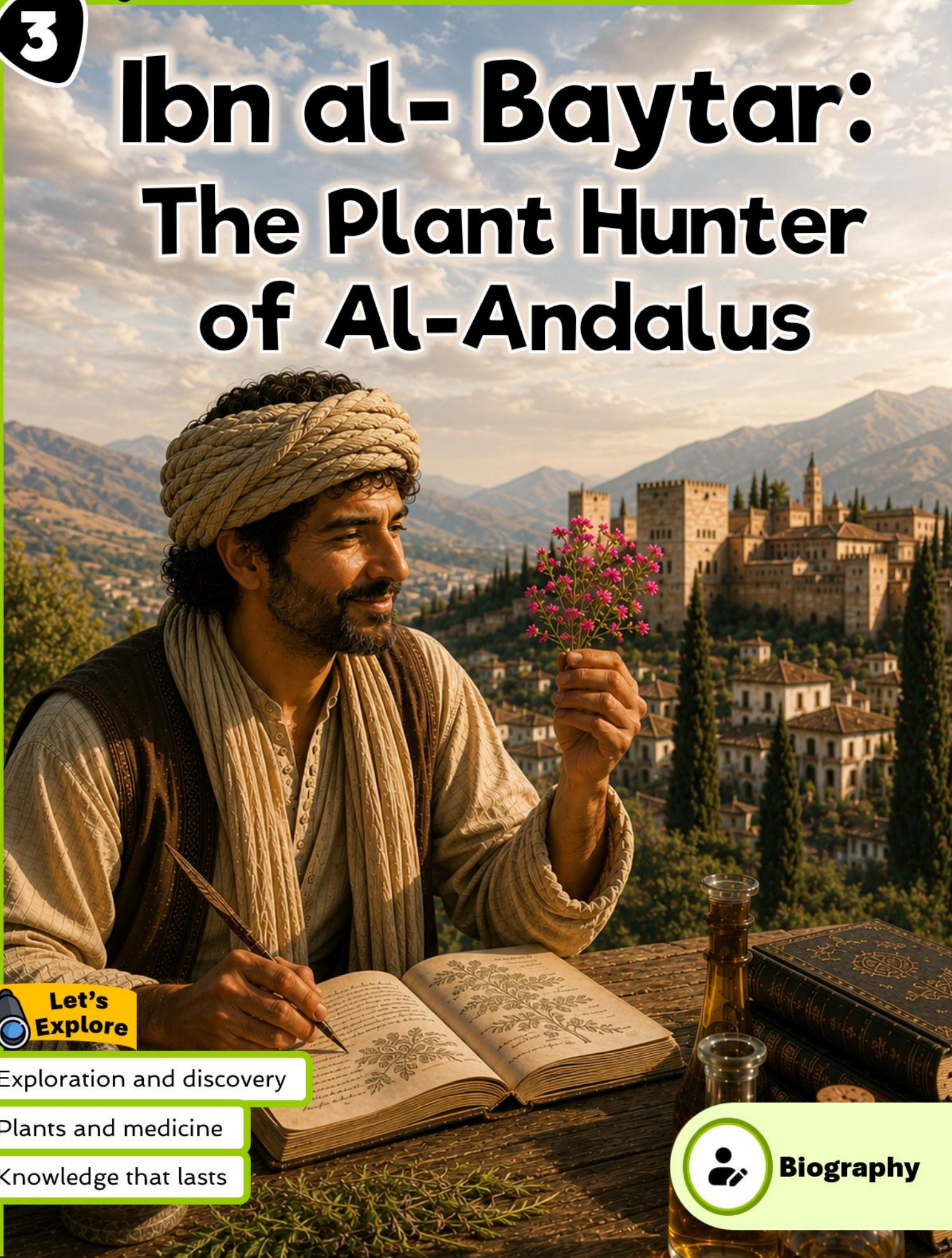
Expanding 3

Story Quest Graded Readers

A2 to A2+

Ibn al- Baytar: The Plant Hunter of Al-Andalus



Let's Explore

- ★ Exploration and discovery
- ★ Plants and medicine
- ★ Knowledge that lasts

Biography

المملكة المغربيـــة
Kingdom of Morocco

وزارة التربيـــة الوطنيـــة
والتعليم الأولي والرياضة

Ministry of National Education,
Preschool and Sports

About this Series

This graded reader is part of Story Quest, a series that supports Moroccan students in building their English language skills. Its stories encourage curiosity, build confidence, and foster a lifelong love of reading.

The Story Quest series was developed through collaboration between the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports, Curriculum Directorate, and Amideast. Together, we help students strengthen their English while opening doors to new ideas, cultures, and opportunities.

Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Morocco.

amideast
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Welcome to Story Quest!

Every story is an ADVENTURE.

- Open the book.
- Discover new words.
- Meet interesting characters.
- Explore new ideas.

And most of all... enjoy the story!



Your Reading Journey



Story Snapshot

Genre

Biography — These readers tell the true story of a real person's life.*

*The pictures in this reader are imagined illustrations, not historical photographs.

Reader Level

3 Expanding (A2 to A2+) — These books have longer stories, more detail, and richer language to explore.

Get Ready!

Look, Think, and Predict

Look at Ibn al-Baytar on the cover. Tick (✓) the two things you think will happen in the story.

- ❑ He will travel to find and learn about plants.
- ❑ He will use plants to help sick people.
- ❑ He will grow food for people in his town.
- ❑ He will stop studying plants and become a trader.

Your idea: _____

Words and Phrases to Know

Match the words with their meanings. Write the letter.

____ 1. herb

____ 2. medicine

____ 3. compare

____ 4. expert

____ 5. observe

a) something used to help a sick person

b) a plant used for medicine

c) look at something carefully

d) see how things are the same or different

e) a person who knows a lot about something



Ready? Your **Story Quest** begins now!

🎧 Listen as you read. Enjoy the journey!

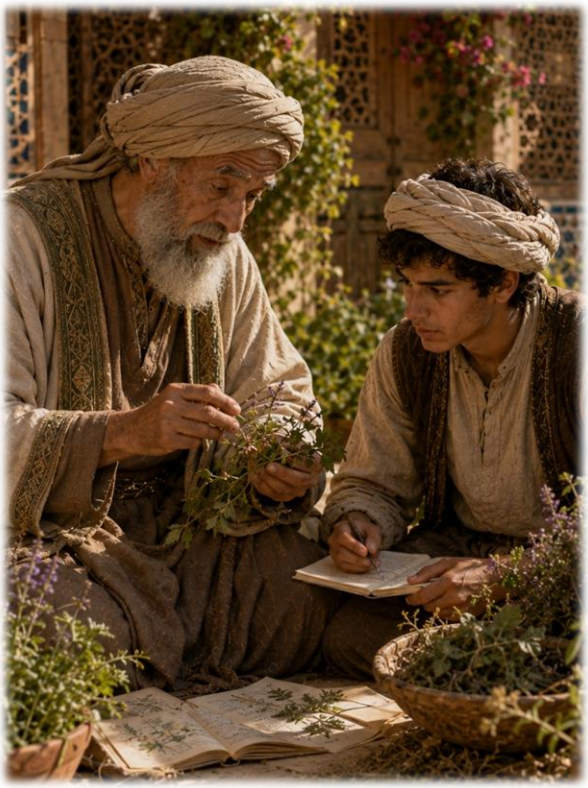


Enjoy the Story!

Ibn al-Baytar The Plant Hunter of Al-Andalus

A plant could help a sick person. Another plant that looked almost the same could be dangerous. How could you tell the difference? More than 800 years ago, Ibn al-Baytar wanted to know.

He was born around 1197 in Málaga, in Al-Andalus, in what is now Spain. The region had mountains, gardens, and many kinds of plants. As a young man, Ibn al-Baytar became fascinated by how plants could be used as food and medicine. He studied with Abu al-Abbas al-Nabati, an expert on plants. His teacher taught him not to simply repeat what others had written. He needed to study plants for himself.



Ibn al-Baytar learned to look closely at leaves, roots, and flowers. He noticed where plants grew and compared them with the work of earlier experts. He recorded what he observed. Getting it right mattered.

We do not know everything that happened during Ibn al-Baytar's early years. But we know how carefully he studied plants.

Imagine a challenge like this...

One evening, a trader arrived at Ibn al-Baytar's house with a high fever. Ibn al-Baytar knew of a bitter mountain herb that could help. But there was a problem.

Three plants near the cliffs looked almost the same. Choosing the wrong one could be dangerous. Ibn al-Baytar took his notebook and remembered his teacher's lessons.

Near the cliffs, the wind moved through the dry grass. Ibn al-Baytar searched until he saw three plants. He stopped.

Which one was the right one?



Ibn al-Baytar did not simply pick the first plant.

He compared the leaves. He smelled the stems. He looked closely at the small yellow flowers. Then he checked where each plant was growing. One plant matched his notes. Ibn al-Baytar picked it and hurried back to town.

At home, he prepared the herb as medicine and gave it to the trader. By morning, the trader's fever was lower, and he was able to sleep. Careful observation was at the heart of Ibn al-Baytar's work.

And Málaga was only the beginning of his journey.

Ibn al-Baytar left Al-Andalus and traveled across North Africa, searching for plants and learning from people who knew about them.

His journeys later took him to Egypt and other parts of the Middle East. He continued to study plants and medicines.





Ibn al-Baytar brought this knowledge together in books. His most famous work, Kitab al-Jami, described around 1,400 plants, foods, medicines, and other useful substances. He combined earlier knowledge with his own observations and information from experts he met.

More than 800 years ago, Ibn al-Baytar searched for answers without cameras or the internet. He used his own eyes, his knowledge, and careful notes.

His work helped people understand plants and medicines for centuries. They learned from his books and his careful way of studying plants.

Today, Ibn al-Baytar is still remembered for the knowledge he collected and shared with the world.



Keep Exploring!



Check your Comprehension

A. Complete the summary with the words in the box. Two words are extra.

teacher	**plants**	**notebook**	**compared**
medicine	**traveled**	**books**	**guessed**

Ibn al-Baytar learned from his ❶ _____ how to study plants carefully. When he needed to choose between three similar ❷ _____, he used his ❸ _____ and looked closely at each one. He ❹ _____ their leaves, stems, flowers, and where they grew.
Later, Ibn al-Baytar ❺ _____ to many places to learn more. He collected what he learned in ❻ _____ that helped people understand plants and medicines for centuries.

B. Select the correct answer.

What was most important to Ibn al-Baytar's work?

a. finding answers quickly

b. looking carefully before deciding

c. knowing everything by himself

Make Connections

Observe like Ibn al-Baytar

Ibn al-Baytar did not choose the first plant he saw. He looked, compared, and checked before he made a decision. What about you?

Imagine you see this message online:

"Drink this every morning and you will never get sick!"

What would you do before you believed it? Tick three.

- ❑ Check who posted it.
- ❑ Look for information from another source.
- ❑ Ask someone who knows about health.
- ❑ Believe it because many people liked it.
- ❑ Share it immediately with my friends.
- ❑ Check if there is evidence.

Check Before you Believe

Now think of something you have seen or heard online. What could you check before believing it?

I have heard or seen

_____.

I would check

_____.

Answer Key

Get Ready!

Look, Think, and Predict

Answers will vary.

Words and Phrases to Know

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. e
5. c

Keep Exploring!

Check your Comprehension

A. Complete

1. teacher
2. plants
3. notebook
4. compared
5. traveled
6. books

B. Choose

☑ b.

Make Connections

Observe like Ibn al-Baytar

Answers will vary.

You should **not** select:

- Believe it because many people liked it.
- Share it immediately with my friends.

Check Before you Believe

Answers will vary.

Sample answers:

I have heard or seen a video that said studying with music always helps you get better grades.

I would check who made the video and whether other scientific sources say the same thing.