

# who were the mongols?

## I. Who are the Mongols?

The Mongols are one of the most successful empires that the world has ever seen, but not many people realize what impact the Mongols had on our modern world. Their success came about because they were ruthless attackers that created fear throughout the world. A great example of their conquering is what they did to the great Abbasid capital of Baghdad. Their city was totally destroyed. A number of inhabitants ranging from 100,000 to 1,000,000 were massacred during the invasion of the city, and the city was sacked and burned. Even the libraries of Baghdad, including the House of Wisdom, were not safe from the attacks. According to one witness, "They swept through the city like hungry falcons attacking a flight of doves, or like raging wolves attacking sheep, with loose reins and shameless faces, murdering and spreading terror...beds and cushions made of gold and encrusted with jewels were cut to pieces with knives and torn to shreds. People were dragged...through the streets and alleys, each of them becoming a plaything...as the population died at the hands of the invaders." (Abdullah Wassaf as cited by David Morgan)

Survivors said that the river ran black from the ink of the enormous quantities of books flung into the river and red from the blood of the scientists and philosophers killed. The caliph was captured and forced to watch as his citizens were murdered and his treasury plundered. According to most accounts, the caliph was killed by trampling. The Mongols rolled the caliph up in a rug, and rode their horses over him, as they believed that the earth was offended if touched by royal blood. That is how the Abbasid Empire ended after 500 years. It is also said that the stench from rotting corpses was so great that, not for the first time, the Mongols had to evacuate their campsites.

### A. List 3 facts about the Mongols from the reading:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Mongols were among the numerous \_\_\_\_\_ tribes who lived in \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Mongols lived in the harsh climate of the Eurasian \_\_\_\_\_, an area with little rain & extreme temperatures
  - a. Mongol life centered on \_\_\_\_\_ animals, especially \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Mongols lived as nomadic \_\_\_\_\_, constantly searching for better \_\_\_\_\_ lands
2. As a result of their lifestyle, the Mongols were tough \_\_\_\_\_ who occasionally raided nearby settlements

### C. Genghis Khan & the Mongol Empire

1. From 1200 to 1206, a clan leader named \_\_\_\_\_ unified the Mongols
2. Genghis Khan built a powerful Mongol \_\_\_\_\_ & began a 21-year \_\_\_\_\_ of Eurasia



3. Under Genghis & later khans, the Mongols conquered...Central Asia, \_\_\_\_\_, Korea, Russia, the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire

### D. How did the Mongols create this massive empire?

1. Mongol soldiers were excellent \_\_\_\_\_; Used the horse \_\_\_\_\_ to shoot arrows while riding
2. Genghis was a brilliant military organizer & strategist, but his greatest tactic was \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. If an enemy refused to \_\_\_\_\_, Genghis would order the \_\_\_\_\_ of the entire population



- b. As the Mongol \_\_\_\_\_ spread, many towns surrendered to Genghis without a \_\_\_\_\_

## II. The Impact of the Mongol Empire

### A. Mongol Rule

1. The Mongols were \_\_\_\_\_ in battle, but \_\_\_\_\_ as rulers
2. Mongol \_\_\_\_\_ (rulers) often \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the culture of the people they conquered
  - a. In the West, Mongols converted to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. In the East, Mongols embraced \_\_\_\_\_ culture

### B. The Pax Mongolica

1. Mongol khans brought \_\_\_\_\_ & order to Eurasia
2. The era from the mid-1200s to the mid-1300s is called the \_\_\_\_\_ ("Mongol Peace")

3. During the Pax Mongolica, the Mongols guaranteed \_\_\_\_\_ passage across the \_\_\_\_\_
4. As a result, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ increased between Europe & Asia
  - a. Chinese technologies like \_\_\_\_\_ & the magnetic \_\_\_\_\_ reached Europe
  - b. But diseases like the \_\_\_\_\_ (Black Death) reached Europe too

C. After the \_\_\_\_\_ of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire was \_\_\_\_\_ into 4 major \_\_\_\_\_ each ruled by a son or grandson of Genghis



1. The khanate in \_\_\_\_\_ helped control the Silk Road
2. The Mongol destruction of \_\_\_\_\_ increased the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ in Russia
3. The Mongols were the first \_\_\_\_\_ to rule over the Islamic Empire
4. But the most significant khanate was the Mongol rule over \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. Kublai Khan & the Yuan Dynasty in China

1. In 1279, Genghis' grandson \_\_\_\_\_ became the first foreign leader to rule China
2. Kublai Khan began a new era in China called the \_\_\_\_\_ Dynasty
  - a. Kublai enjoyed Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ so much that he moved the Mongolian \_\_\_\_\_ to China
- b. But, he \_\_\_\_\_ the Chinese from serving in high gov't offices & relied on \_\_\_\_\_ to serve in his government
3. Kublai proved to be a \_\_\_\_\_ emperor for China
  - a. Under Kublai, \_\_\_\_\_ with China increased due to the Pax Mongolica
  - b. He built \_\_\_\_\_ & extended the \_\_\_\_\_ to help improve transportation in China

E. In 1275, a European merchant named \_\_\_\_\_ visited Kublai Khan's court

1. Kublai was so impressed with Marco Polo that he \_\_\_\_\_ him in the Yuan gov't for \_\_\_\_\_ years
2. When Marco Polo returned to \_\_\_\_\_ in 1292, his stories of \_\_\_\_\_ increased European demand for \_\_\_\_\_

### III. The Decline & Fall of the Mongol Empire

A. By the time of Kublai's \_\_\_\_\_ in 1294, the entire Mongol Empire was growing \_\_\_\_\_

1. In 1330, the Mongols lost control of \_\_\_\_\_
2. In 1368, the \_\_\_\_\_ overthrew the Mongols & started the \_\_\_\_\_ Dynasty
3. In 1370, the Mongols lost control of \_\_\_\_\_
4. In 1480, under \_\_\_\_\_ Russia gained independence from Mongol rule & started the \_\_\_\_\_ Dynasty

## GATEWAY PRACTICE ~ DYNASTIES AND EMPIRES: THE MONGOLS

#### Historical Background:

Most westerners accept the stereotype of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Mongols as barbaric plunderers with intent merely to maim, slaughter, and destroy. This perception, based on Persian, Chinese, Russian, and other accounts of the speed and ruthlessness with which the Mongols carved out the largest contiguous land empire in world history, has shaped both Asian and Western images of the Mongols and of their earliest leader, Genghis Khan. Such a view has diverted attention from the considerable contributions the Mongols made to 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century civilization. Though the brutality of the Mongols' military campaigns ought not to be downplayed or ignored, neither should their influence on Eurasian culture be overlooked.

#### DIRECTIONS

Using the historical background and the writing task, complete an introductory paragraph on the **Mongol Empire**.

**Writing Task:** Write an essay in which you discuss the contributions and importance of the Mongol Empire in Asia. Be sure in your essay to include:

- Ruthless tactics used by the Mongols to expand their empire (Genghis Khan)
- How Mongol rulers use of tolerance that led to Pax Mongolica and increased trade
- The impact of Marco Polo's travels and time in the Yuan dynasty

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---