

Barbara Huntwork

TIP

April 4, 2013

Lesson Title: The Mongol Invasion of China and the Yuan and Ming Dynasties

Time to Complete: Two 45-minute class sessions

Objectives:

Students will learn that:

- The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan Dynasty.
- The Ming Dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
- China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

Academic Content Standards:

7th-Grade Social Studies

- Germanic invasions helped to break up the Roman Empire and set the stage for the development of feudal and manorial systems. Later invasions helped establish Mongol dominance in central Asia and led to the destruction of the Byzantine Empire by the Turks
- Mongol influence led to unified states in China and Korea, but the Mongol failure to conquer Japan allowed a feudal system to persist.
- Maps and other geographic representations can be used to trace the development of human settlement over time.
- Geographic factors promote or impede the movement of people, products, and ideas.
- Trade routes connecting Africa, Europe, and Asia fostered the spread of technology and major world religions.
- Improvements in transportation, communication, and technology have facilitated cultural diffusion among peoples around the world.
- The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.

Literacy in History/Social Studies

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
- Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source.
- Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Procedures

1. Section Preview – Read and ask students for response – You are a farmer in northern China in 1212. As you pull weeds from a wheat field, you hear a sound like thunder. Looking toward the sound, you see hundreds – no, *thousands* – of armed horsemen on the horizon, riding straight toward you. You are frozen with fear. Only one thought fills your mind – the dreaded Mongols are coming. What can you do to save yourself?
 - a. Consider passive options
 - i. Run and hide
 - ii. Do as the aggressors bid
 - iii. Hope for the best, and accept what comes
 - b. Consider aggressive options
 - i. Bolster your defenses
 - ii. Seize the upper hand – attack first
 - iii. Fight with all the courage you can muster
2. Read “The Yuan and Ming Dynasties”
 - a. “The Mongol Empire”
 - i. The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.
 - ii. From where did the Mongols originate? *The plains north of China.*
 - iii. Why was the period of the Yuan dynasty a significant time in China’s history? *It was the first time all of China was ruled by foreigners.*
 - iv. How were the Mongol rulers different than the Chinese? *They spoke a different language, dressed differently, worshipped different gods, and had different customs.*
 - v. What effect might Marco Polo’s description of life in China have on European traders? *Possible answer – They might want to go to China to trade.*
 - vi. What led to the downfall of the Yuan dynasty? *Failed campaigns against Japan, expensive public-works projects that weakened the economy, Chinese resentment, all of which led to rebellions.*
 - b. “The Ming Dynasty”
 - i. The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
 - ii. How long did the Ming dynasty last? *Nearly 300 years*
 - iii. Where did the expeditions of Zheng He travel? *Throughout the Indian Ocean and as far west as the Persian Gulf and the easternmost coast of Africa.*

- iv. Why do you think it was significant that the Chinese had such a capable fleet of ships? *Possible answer – It proved that Chinese technology was advanced and that the country was sophisticated enough to support such projects.*
- v. How did the Forbidden City get its name? *Common people were forbidden from entering the city.*
- vi. Why is the Forbidden City called “a city within a city”? *It was a huge complex of almost 1,000 buildings located within the capital city.*
- vii. Why do you think the Ming rulers were interested in building projects? *Possible answers – to glorify their empire, to impress their people, to instill fear in their neighbors.*

c. “China Under the Ming”

- i. China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.
- ii. How were the Ming emperors more powerful than Tang and Song rulers? *They abolished the offices of powerful officials, took a larger role in running the government, and punished anyone who challenged their authority.*
- iii. What was the job of a Chinese censor? *To investigate on local officials and local institutions.*
- iv. Why do you think the Ming dynasty turned to isolationism? *Possible answer – The period of Mongol rule made the Ming suspicious of foreigners.*

- 3. Complete “Guided Reading Workbook” assignment
- 4. Complete “Mongol Empire Map Activity”
- 5. Complete “Genghis Khan Biography” assignment
- 6. Complete “Mongol Oath to Genghis Khan” assignment
- 7. Complete “Section Quiz” assignment
- 8. Complete “Mongols and the Ming Dynasty” assessment

Materials:

- “The Yuan and Ming Dynasties” Reading Packet
- “The Yuan and Ming Dynasties” Assignment Packet
 - “Guided Reading Workbook” assignment
 - “Mongol Empire Map Activity”
 - “Genghis Khan Biography” assignment
 - “Mongol Oath to Genghis Khan” assignment

Barbara Huntwork

TIP

April 4, 2013

- “Section Quiz” assignment
- “Mongols and the Ming Dynasty” Assessment

Resources

- “The Yuan and Ming Dynasties” Reading Packet
- “The Yuan and Ming Dynasties” Assignment Packet
- “Mongols and the Ming Dynasty” Assessment

The Yuan and Ming Dynasties

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.
2. The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
3. China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

The Big Idea

The Chinese were ruled by foreigners during the Yuan dynasty, but they threw off Mongol rule and prospered during the Ming dynasty.

Key Terms and People

Genghis Khan, p. 424

Kublai Khan, p. 425

Zheng He, p. 427

isolationism, p. 430



hmhsocialstudies.com

TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the Yuan and Ming dynasties.

If YOU were there...

You are a farmer in northern China in 1212. As you pull weeds from a wheat field, you hear a sound like thunder. Looking toward the sound, you see hundreds—no, *thousands*—of armed horsemen on the horizon, riding straight toward you. You are frozen with fear. Only one thought fills your mind—the dreaded Mongols are coming.

What can you do to save yourself?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Throughout its history, northern China had been attacked over and over by nomadic peoples. During the Song dynasty these attacks became more frequent and threatening.

The Mongol Empire

Among the nomadic peoples who attacked the Chinese were the Mongols. For centuries, the Mongols had lived as separate tribes in the vast plains north of China. Then in 1206, a powerful leader, or khan, united them. His name was Temüjin. When he became leader, though, he was given a new title: “Universal Ruler,” or **Genghis Khan** (JENG-guhs KAHN).

The Mongol Conquest

Genghis Khan organized the Mongols into a powerful army and led them on bloody expeditions of conquest. The brutality of the Mongol attacks terrorized people throughout much of Asia and Eastern Europe. Genghis Khan and his army killed all of the men, women, and children in countless cities and villages. Within 20 years, he ruled a large part of Asia.

Genghis Khan then turned his attention to China. He first led his armies into northern China in 1211. They fought their way south, wrecking whole towns and ruining farmland. By the time of Genghis Khan’s death in 1227, all of northern China was under Mongol control.

Mongol Empire, 1294



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

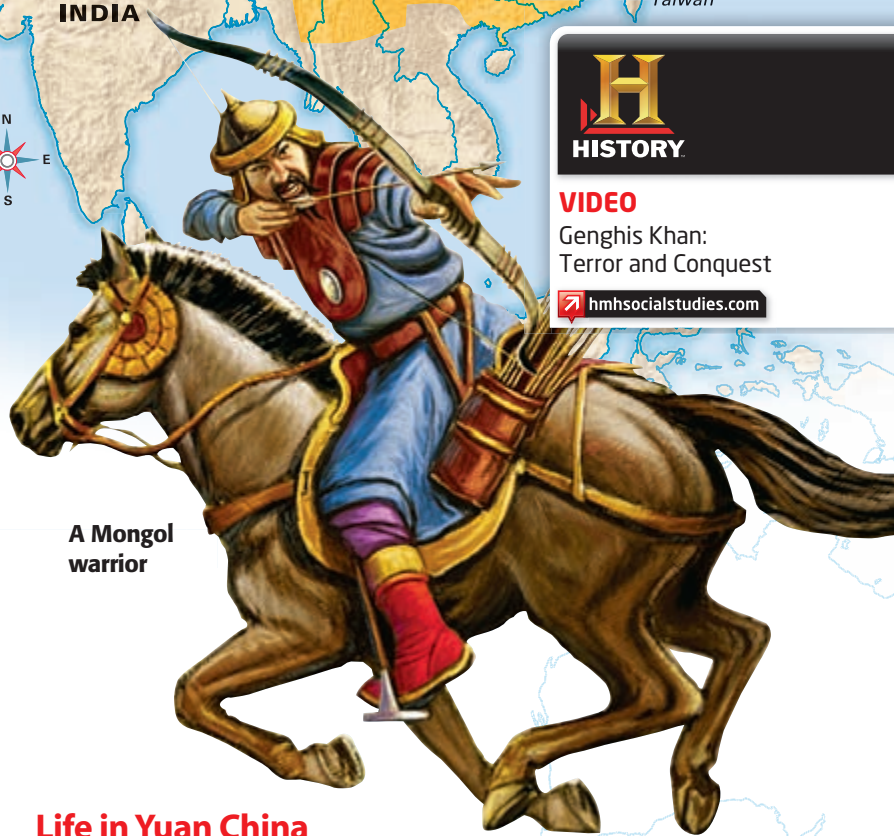
Region How far west did the Mongol Empire stretch?

The Mongol conquests did not end with Genghis Khan's death, though. His sons and grandsons continued to raid lands all over Asia and Eastern Europe. The destruction the Mongols left behind was terrible, as one Russian chronicler noted:

“There used to be the city of Riazan in the land of Riazan, but its wealth and glory ceased, and there is nothing to be seen in the city excepting smoke, ashes, and barren earth.”

—from “The Tale of the Destruction of Riazan,” in *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*, edited by Serge Zenkovsky

In 1260 Genghis Khan's grandson **Kublai Khan** (KOO-bluh KAHN) became ruler of the Mongol Empire. He completed the conquest of China and in 1279 declared himself emperor of China. This began the Yuan dynasty, a period that some people also call the Mongol Ascendancy. For the first time in its long history, foreigners ruled all of China.



A Mongol warrior



VIDEO

Genghis Khan: Terror and Conquest

hmhsocialstudies.com

Life in Yuan China

Kublai Khan and the Mongol rulers he led belonged to a different ethnic group than the Chinese did. They spoke a different language, worshipped different gods, wore different clothing, and had different customs. The Chinese resented being ruled by these foreigners, whom they saw as rude and uncivilized.

However, Kublai Khan did not force the Chinese to accept Mongol ways of life. Some Mongols even adopted aspects of the Chinese culture, such as Confucianism. Still, the Mongols made sure to keep control of the Chinese. They prohibited Confucian scholars from gaining too much power in the government, for example. The Mongols also placed heavy taxes on the Chinese.

Much of the tax money the Mongols collected went to pay for vast public-works projects. These projects required the labor of many Chinese people. The Yuan extended the Grand Canal and built new roads and palaces. Workers also improved the roads that were part of China's postal system. In addition, the Yuan emperors built a new capital, Dadu, near modern Beijing.

Mongol soldiers were sent throughout China to keep the peace as well as to keep a close watch on the Chinese. The soldiers' presence kept overland trade routes safe for merchants. Sea trade between China, India, and Southeast Asia continued, too. The Mongol emperors also welcomed foreign traders at Chinese ports. Some of these traders received special privileges.

Part of what we know about life in the Yuan dynasty comes from one such trader, an Italian merchant named Marco Polo. Between 1271 and 1295 he traveled in and around China. Polo was highly respected by the Mongols and even served in Kublai Khan's court. When Polo returned to Europe, he wrote of his travels. Polo's descriptions of China fascinated many Europeans. His book sparked much European interest in China.

Primary Source

BOOK

A Chinese City

In this passage Marco Polo describes his visit to Hangzhou (HAHNG-JOH), a city in southeastern China.

“Inside the city there is a Lake . . . and all round it are erected [built] beautiful palaces and mansions, of the richest and most exquisite [finest] structure that you can imagine . . . In the middle of the Lake are two Islands, on each of which stands a rich, beautiful and spacious edifice [building], furnished in such style as to seem fit for the palace of an Emperor. And when any one of the citizens desired to hold a marriage feast, or to give any other entertainment, it used to be done at one of these palaces. And everything would be found there ready to order, such as silver plate, trenchers [platters], and dishes, napkins and table-cloths, and whatever else was needful. The King made this provision for the gratification [enjoyment] of his people, and the place was open to every one who desired to give an entertainment.”

—Marco Polo, from *Description of the World*

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

From this description, what impression might Europeans have of Hangzhou?

The End of the Yuan Dynasty

Despite their vast empire, the Mongols were not content with their lands. They decided to invade Japan. A Mongol army sailed to Japan in 1274 and 1281. The campaigns, however, were disastrous. Violent storms and fierce defenders destroyed most of the Mongol force.

The failed campaigns against Japan weakened the Mongol military. The huge, expensive public-works projects had already weakened the economy. These weaknesses, combined with Chinese resentment, made China ripe for rebellion.

In the 1300s many Chinese groups rebelled against the Yuan dynasty. In 1368 a former monk named Zhu Yuanzhang (JOO yoo-ahn-JAHNG) took charge of a rebel army. He led this army in a final victory over the Mongols. China was once again ruled by the Chinese.

READING CHECK **Finding Main Ideas** How did the Mongols come to rule China?

The Voyages of Zheng He

hmhsocialstudies.com
ANIMATED HISTORY

Zheng He's ocean voyages were remarkable. Some of his ships, like the one shown here, were among the largest in the world at the time.

This large ship was more than 300 feet long and carried about 500 people.

Sailors grew vegetables and herbs in special containers and brought livestock for food on the long voyages.

Zheng He brought back exotic animals like these giraffes from Africa.

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

How did Zheng He's crew make sure they had fresh food?

The Ming Dynasty

After his army defeated the Mongols, Zhu Yuanzhang became emperor of China. The Ming dynasty that he founded ruled China from 1368 to 1644—nearly 300 years. Ming China proved to be one of the most stable and prosperous times in Chinese history. The Ming expanded China's fame overseas and sponsored incredible building projects across China.

Great Sea Voyages

During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese improved their ships and their sailing skills. The greatest sailor of the period was

Zheng He (juhng HUH). Between 1405 and 1433, he led seven grand voyages to places around Asia. Zheng He's fleets were huge. One included more than 60 ships and 25,000 sailors. Some of the ships were gigantic too, perhaps more than 300 feet long. That is longer than a football field!

In the course of his voyages Zheng He sailed his fleet throughout the Indian Ocean. He sailed as far west as the Persian Gulf and the easternmost coast of Africa.

Everywhere his ships landed, Zheng He presented leaders with beautiful gifts from China. He boasted about his country and encouraged foreign leaders to send gifts to China's emperor. From one voyage, Zheng He returned to China with representatives of some 30 nations, sent by their leaders to honor the emperor. He also brought goods and stories back to China.

Zheng He's voyages rank among the most impressive in the history of seafaring. Although they did not lead to the creation of new trade routes or the exploration of new lands, they served as a clear sign of China's power.

Great Building Projects

The Ming were also known for their grand building projects. Many of these projects were designed to impress both the Chinese people and their enemies to the north.

In Beijing, for example, Ming emperors built the Forbidden City. This amazing palace complex included hundreds of imperial residences, temples, and other government buildings. Within the buildings were some 9,000 rooms. The name "Forbidden City" came from the fact that the common people were not even allowed to enter the complex. For centuries, this city within a city was a symbol of China's glory.

History Close-up

The Forbidden City

The Forbidden City is not actually a city. It's a huge complex of almost 1,000 buildings in the heart of China's capital. The Forbidden City was built for the emperor, his family, his court, and his servants, and ordinary people were forbidden from entering.

The Forbidden City's main buildings were built of wood and featured gold-colored tile roofs that could only be used for the emperor's buildings.

 hmhsocialstudies.com
ANIMATED HISTORY

The crowds of government and military officials who gathered to watch ceremonies were carefully lined up according to their ranks.

Sometimes, the emperor was carried on a special seat called a palanquin as his officers lined the route.

Ming rulers also directed the restoration of the famous Great Wall of China. Large numbers of soldiers and peasants worked to rebuild collapsed portions of walls, connect existing walls, and build new ones. The result was a construction feat unmatched in history. The wall was more than 2,000 miles long. It would reach from San Diego to New York! The wall was about 25 feet high and, at the top, 12 feet wide. Protected by the wall—and the soldiers who stood guard along it—the Chinese people felt safe from invasions by the northern tribes.

China Under the Ming

During the Ming dynasty, Chinese society began to change. This change was largely due to the efforts of the Ming emperors. Having expelled the Mongols, the Ming emperors worked to eliminate all foreign influences from Chinese society. As a result, China's government and relations with other countries changed dramatically.

hmhsocialstudies.com

ANIMATED HISTORY

The Great Wall of China

READING CHECK **Generalizing** In what ways did the Ming dynasty strengthen China?

The Hall of Supreme Harmony is the largest building in the Forbidden City. Grand celebrations for important holidays, like the emperor's birthday and the New Year, were held there.



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

How did the Forbidden City show the power and importance of the emperor?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

consequences
effects of a
particular event
or events

Government

When the Ming took over China, they adopted many government programs that had been created by the Tang and the Song. However, the Ming emperors were much more powerful than the Tang and Song emperors had been. They abolished the offices of some powerful officials and took a larger role in running the government themselves. These emperors fiercely protected their power, and they punished anyone whom they saw as challenging their authority.

Despite their personal power, though, the Ming did not disband the civil service system. Because he personally oversaw the entire government, the emperor needed officials to keep his affairs organized.

The Ming also used examinations to appoint censors. These officials were sent throughout China to investigate the behavior of local leaders and to judge the quality of schools and other institutions. Censors had existed for many years in China, but under the Ming emperors their power and influence grew.

Relations with Other Countries

In the 1430s a new Ming emperor made Zheng He return to China and dismantle his fleet. At the same time, he banned foreign trade. China entered a period of isolationism. **Isolationism** is a policy of avoiding contact with other countries.

In the end, this isolationism had great **consequences** for China. In 1644 the Ming dynasty was overthrown. By the late 1800s the Western world had made huge leaps in technological progress. Westerners were then able to gain influence in Chinese affairs. Partly due to its isolation and lack of progress, China was too weak to stop them.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect How did isolationism affect China?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Under the Yuan and Ming dynasties, Chinese society changed. Eventually, the Ming began a policy of isolationism. In the next chapter you will read about Japan, another country that was isolated at times.

Section 4 Assessment



hmhsocialstudies.com

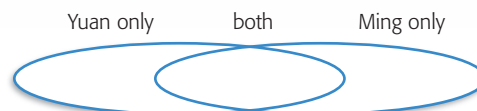
ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- Identify** Who was **Genghis Khan**?
 - Explain** How did the Mongols gain control of China?
 - Evaluate** Judge this statement: "The Mongols should never have tried to invade Japan."
- Identify** Who was **Zheng He**, and what did he do?
 - Analyze** What impression do you think the Forbidden City had on the residents of Beijing?
 - Develop** How may the Great Wall have both helped and hurt China?
- Define** What is **isolationism**?
 - Explain** How did the Ming change China?
 - Develop** How might a policy of isolationism have both advantages and disadvantages?

Critical Thinking

- Comparing and Contrasting** Draw a diagram like this one. Use your notes to see how the Yuan and Ming dynasties were alike and different.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Identifying Achievements of the Later Dynasties** Make a list of the achievements of the Yuan and Ming dynasties. Then look back over all your notes and rate the achievements or inventions. Which three do you think are the most important?

Kublai Khan

How did a Mongol nomad settle down to rule a vast empire?

When did he live? 1215–1294

Where did he live? Kublai came from Mongolia but spent much of his life in China. His capital, Dadu, was near the modern city of Beijing.

What did he do? Kublai Khan completed the conquest of China that Genghis Khan had begun. He ruled China as the emperor of the Yuan dynasty.

Why is he important? The lands Kublai Khan ruled made up one of the largest empires in world history. It stretched from the Pacific Ocean to Eastern Europe. As China's ruler, Kublai Khan welcomed foreign visitors, including the Italian merchant Marco Polo and the Arab historian Ibn Battutah. The stories these two men told helped create interest in China and its products among Westerners.

Generalizing How did Kublai Khan's actions help change people's views of China?

KEY FACTS

- Unified all of China under his rule
- Established peace, during which China's population grew
- Extended the Grand Canal so that food could be shipped from the Huang He (Yellow River) to his capital near modern Beijing
- Linked China to India and Persia with better roads
- Increased contact with the West

This painting from the 1200s shows Kublai Khan hunting on horseback.



61. China: Mongols and the Ming Dynasty

A ¹The Mongols lived as shepherds on the steppe of Northern China. ²A steppe is a grassland without trees. ³Genghis Khan united these nomadic shepherds and used them to conquer much of Asia and parts of Europe. ⁴He ruled from 1206 - 1227. ⁵His empire was known as the Mongol Empire. ⁶After his death, his sons and grandsons expanded the empire and it became the largest empire in the history of the world.

B ⁷Genghis Khan's Mongol warriors were well-organized, skilled horsemen that fought with bows or lances. ⁸The Mongols ruthlessly conquered enemies; killing men, ravaging women, and completely destroying civilizations.

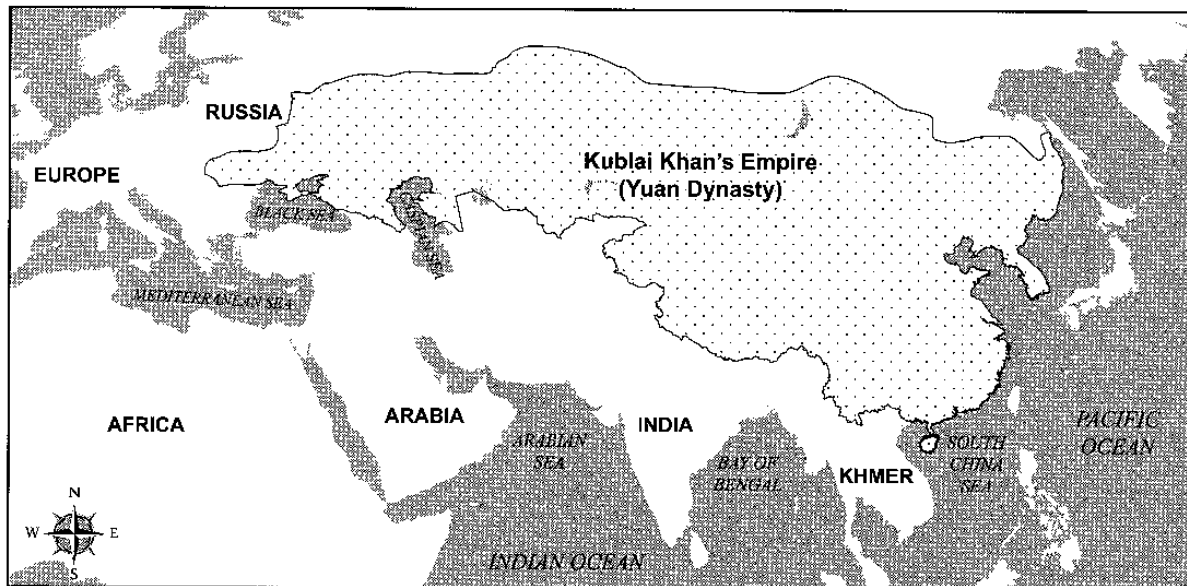
C ⁹Horses were a large part of the success of Mongol invasions. ¹⁰They used their horses to travel great distances very quickly, surprising many towns and armies. ¹¹They also used their horses as a source of food on long trips by cutting into a horse's vein and drinking its blood. ¹²Some towns had high protective walls which provided some protection against the Mongol cavalry (horse-mounted soldiers). ¹³To overcome this problem, the Mongols started using catapults to destroy the protective walls.

D ¹⁴In spite of his ruthlessness when conquering civilizations, Genghis Khan allowed religious freedom within these territories, encouraged literacy, and supported domestic and international trade. ¹⁵He also exempted the poor and the clergy from taxation. ¹⁶Shortly after the death of Genghis Khan in 1227, his son, Ogedei, conquered most of China in 1234. ¹⁷By 1279, Genghis Khan's grandson, Kublai, conquered the rest of China. ¹⁸He established the Yuan Dynasty and assumed the role of Emperor of China.

E ¹⁹Kublai Khan created a new social system in China that was made up of four classes: first, Mongols; second, Central Asians; third, Northern Chinese and Koreans; and fourth, Southern Chinese. ²⁰This social system made the Chinese second-class citizens in their own land.

F ²¹Although he discriminated against the Chinese, Kublai Khan encouraged foreigners to live in China, including Turks, Muslims, Christians, and Tibetans. ²²He also built hospitals for old people and the poor. ²³He encouraged commerce and more silk trade by constructing roads and canals.

Kublai Khan's Empire (Yuan Dynasty), 1279-1368



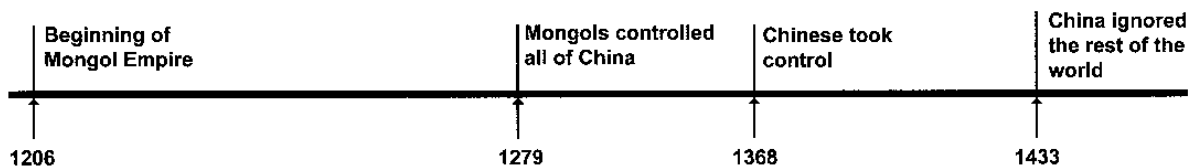
G ²⁴In 1279, Europe's famous traveler, Marco Polo, visited Kublai Khan and stayed in China for 17 years. ²⁵Marco Polo returned to Europe and told of the incredible developed country, where a "black stone" (coal) burned all night, people used paper money, and there were flush toilets in cities. ²⁶Europeans didn't believe him.

H ²⁷Though prosperous, the Mongols were hated by the Chinese and viewed as barbarians. ²⁸The Chinese eventually overthrew the Mongols and established the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

I ²⁹Perhaps because of their negative experiences with foreigners under the Mongols, the Chinese distrusted outsiders. ³⁰To protect China from outside invasion, the Ming Dynasty created a powerful and brutal group of secret police that executed more than 100,000 people for treason (betraying one's country).

J ³¹The Ming believed China was the center of the

world. ³²Neighboring countries were forced to pay tribute, and foreign ambassadors had to kowtow (touch the ground with their foreheads) in front of the emperor's feet. ³³Before the Ming isolated China from the rest of the world, they launched seven major naval expeditions (a trip made for a purpose). ³⁴These were led by a Chinese Muslim explorer named Zheng He. ³⁵From 1405 to 1433, Zheng He led a large group of ships holding 27,000 sailors and soldiers to establish Chinese control over trade routes to Indonesia, India, the Middle East, and Africa. ³⁶The Ming's ships were reportedly as large as 400 feet long and 150 feet wide. ³⁷This is huge compared to most European ships of the time. ³⁸For example, the Santa Maria, Columbus's largest ship, was just 90 by 30 feet. ³⁹The ships brought Chinese silk and other goods to trade for spices, ivory, medicines, and pearls from Indonesian, Indian, Arabian, and African merchants. ⁴⁰After 1433, China ended sea travel and turned inward. ⁴¹Its leaders did not think they needed the rest of the world.



Questions

- Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
 - ____ Mongols used shepherds to take over parts of Asia.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - ____ Genghis Khan's army was very unskilled in fighting.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - ____ The Mongols let conquered citizens practice any religion.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - ____ Chinese were lower class citizens under Mongol rule.
Which sentences best support the answer?
_____, _____

- What protected some of the towns from the Mongol invasion?
 - the cavalry
 - walls that surrounded the towns.
 - catapults
 - large armies

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- What did Mongol warriors use for travelling far?
 - camels
 - ships
 - horses
 - mules

Which sentence best supports the answer?

4. Number the events in chronological order.
- a. ____ The Chinese defeated the Mongols.
 - b. ____ Mongols ruled all of China.
 - c. ____ Genghis Khan took over much of Asia.
 - d. ____ The secret police turned traitors in to the government.
5. Genghis Khan:
- a. began the worlds' greatest empire.
 - b. had heartless warriors.
 - c. thought people should learn to read and write.
 - d. all of the above

Which sentences best support the answer?

____, _____, _____

6. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
- a. ____ Kublai Khan wanted foreigners to move to China.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- b. ____ The Chinese liked the Mongols.
- Which sentence best supports the answer?

- c. ____ The Ming Dynasty did not trust foreigners.
- Which sentence best supports the answer?

- d. ____ Marco Polo thought China was barbaric.
- Which sentence best supports the answer?

7. What were the consequences of the Mings believing China was the center of the world?
- a. They cut themselves off from all nations.
 - b. The emperor kowtowed to foreigners.
 - c. Trade with other nations increased.
 - d. Travel by sea increased.

Which sentences best support the answer?

_____, _____

8. Why was China considered an advanced country by some?
- a. coal was used for heating
 - b. toilets flushed
 - c. paper money was used
 - d. all of the above

Which sentence best supports the answer?

9. What was most likely a common food for Mongols?
- a. sheep
 - b. beef
 - c. goat
 - d. llama

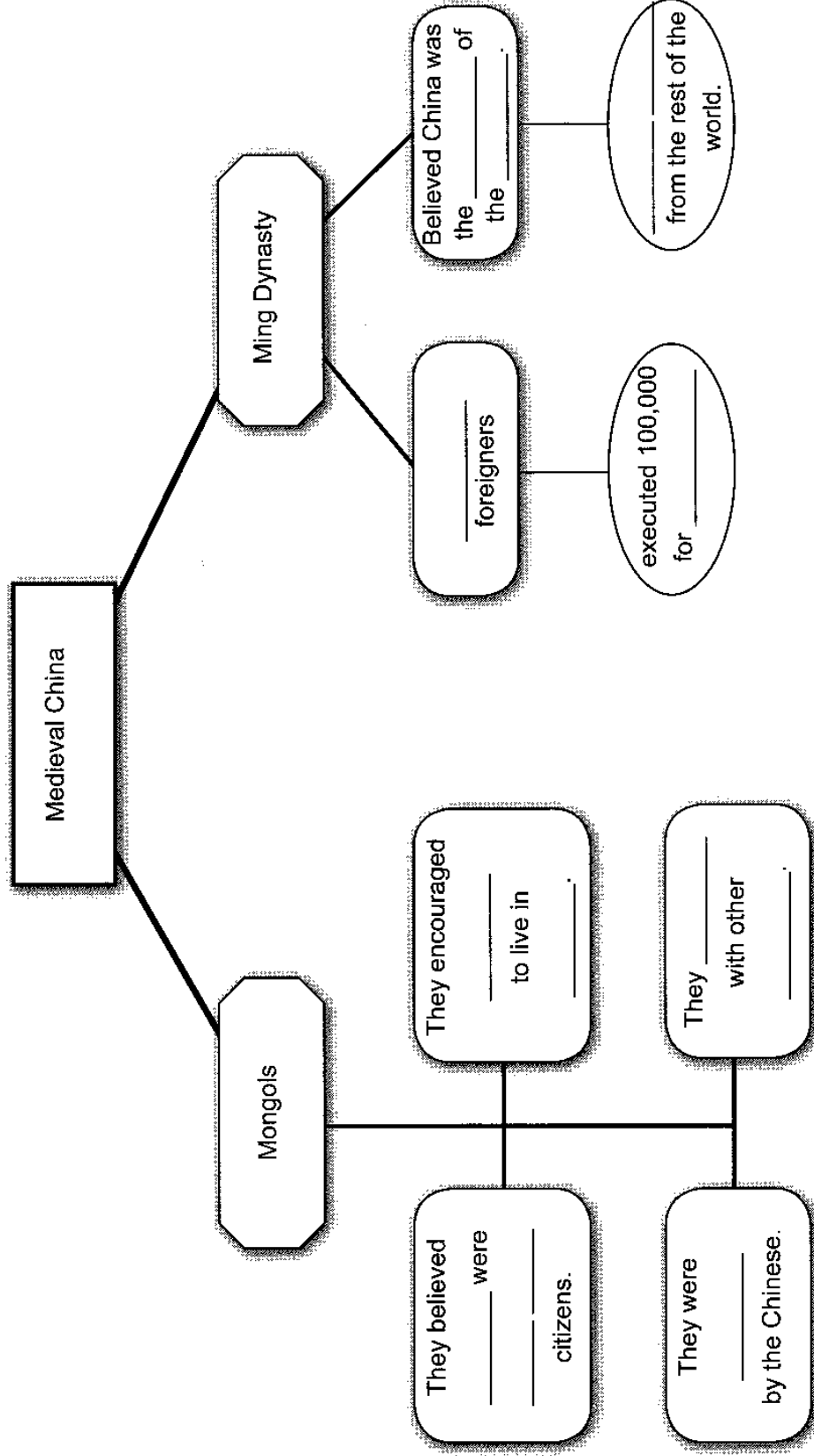
Which sentence best supports the answer?

Written Response Question

10. Explain why Genghis Khan's empire became the largest in the world. Please use complete sentences to answer the question.

Complete the concept map by using the words from the choice box below.

Turned away China traded treason center lower class
foreigners hated world Chinese Distrusted countries



China**Section 4****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The Mongol Empire included China, and the Mongols ruled China as the Yuan dynasty.
2. The Ming dynasty was a time of stability and prosperity.
3. China under the Ming saw great changes in its government and relations with other countries.

Key Terms and People

Genghis Khan powerful leader who united the Mongols

Kublai Khan Genghis Khan's grandson, who completed the conquest of China

Zheng He famous seafaring voyager of the Ming dynasty

isolationism a policy of removing a country from contact with other countries

Academic Vocabulary

consequences effects of a particular event or events

Section Summary**THE MONGOL EMPIRE**

For centuries, the Mongols had lived as nomadic tribes in the vast plains north of China. Then in 1206, a powerful leader known as **Genghis Khan** (jeng-giz KAHN) united them. He led huge armies on bloody expeditions of conquest throughout much of Asia and Eastern Europe.

Genghis Khan first led his armies into northern China in 1211. They fought their way south, wrecking whole towns and ruining farmland. By the time of Genghis Khan's death in 1227, all of northern China was under Mongol control.

Genghis Khan's grandson, **Kublai Khan** (KOO-bluh KAHN), completed the conquest of China and declared himself emperor of China in 1279. He named his new dynasty the Yuan dynasty. Kublai Khan's empire, which stretched all the way to eastern Europe, covered more land than any other empire in world history.

Name two Mongol leaders involved in the conquest of China.

Section 4, *continued*

Kublai Khan's regime preserved much of the structure of the Song dynasty, including the civil service and trade routes. The Italian merchant Marco Polo, who traveled in China between 1271 and 1295, wrote of a highly civilized country and sparked Europeans' interest in China.

Two failed campaigns against Japan and expensive public works projects gradually weakened the Yuan dynasty. Many Chinese groups rebelled. Finally, in 1368, Chu Yuan-Chang (JOO yoo-ahn-JAHNG) took control and founded the Ming dynasty.

What were two aspects of Song civilization that Kublai Khan kept in place?

THE MING DYNASTY

The Ming dynasty lasted nearly 300 years, from 1368 to 1644. Ming China proved to be one of the most stable and prosperous times in Chinese history. Great Ming achievements include the fabulous ships and goodwill voyages of **Zheng He** (juhng HUH), the famous Forbidden City at the center of Beijing, and the Great Wall of China.

Name three achievements of the Ming dynasty.

CHINA UNDER THE MING

Around 1400 China's emperor and scholar-officials began to react against the popular influence of foreign goods, beliefs, and customs, and the increasing wealth and power of merchants. China entered a period of **isolationism**. However, this isolation had severe **consequences**. It led to weakness that allowed opportunistic Westerners to seize considerable power in some parts of China. China's imperial glory faded.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Why did Ming rulers prohibit common people from entering the Forbidden City? Imagine that you had lived during the period and write a response to this exclusionary policy.

Section 4, *continued*

Genghis Khan	Kublai Khan	isolationism
Ming dynasty	Zheng He	

DIRECTIONS Answer each question by writing a sentence that contains at least one word from the word bank.

1. Who was considered one of the greatest sailors during the history of early China?

2. Who was the powerful leader that was first able to unite the Mongols?

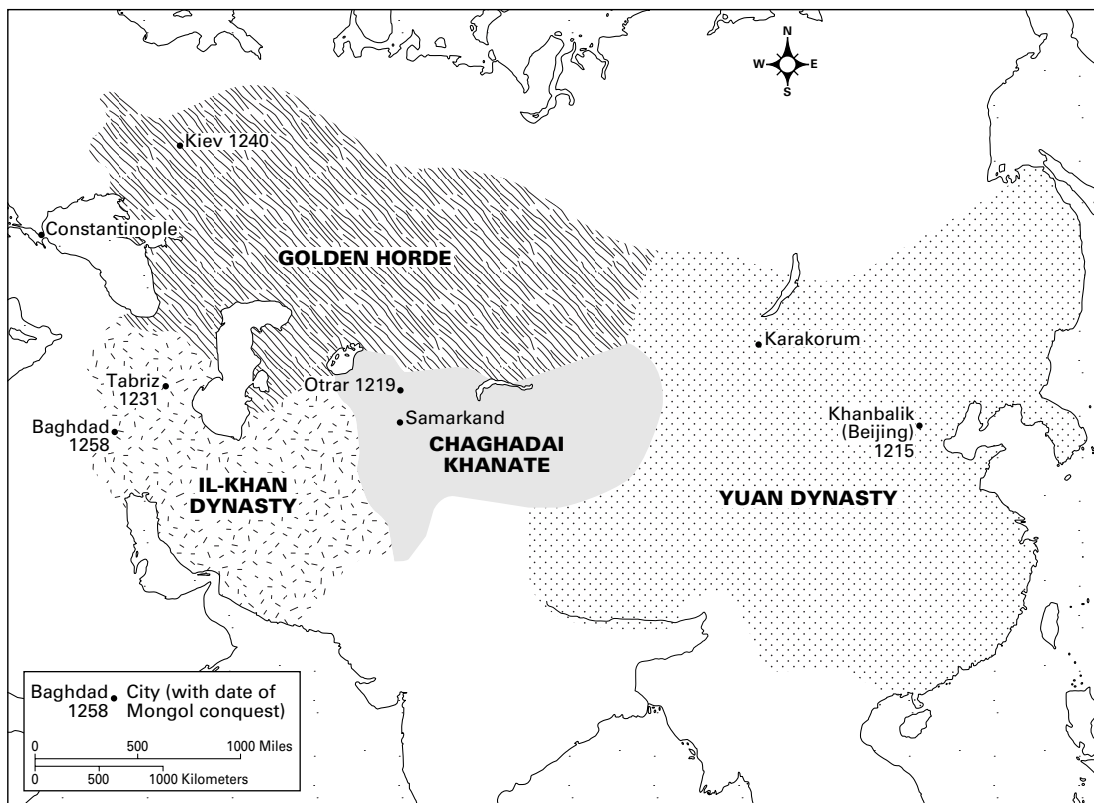
3. In the 1430s, what policy did China follow in terms of contact with other countries?

4. Who became the ruler of the Mongol Empire and completed his grandfather's conquest of China?

5. What was the name of the prosperous and powerful dynasty that rose after the defeat of the Mongols?

The Mongol Empire

Genghis Khan organized the Mongols into a powerful army that swept across Asia on a journey of attack and conquest. In 1211 Genghis Khan and his troops invaded northern China. They soon captured many cities. By 1227 the Mongols controlled all of northern China. The Mongols then invaded the Russian steppes and conquered Kiev. Next they moved into Poland and Hungary. By the mid-1200s the Mongols had built a huge empire consisting of four regions, called khanates. The Great Khan of the Yuan Dynasty covered Mongolia and China. The Chaghadaï Khanate took in much of Central Asia. The Khanate of Persia of the Il-Khan Dynasty included Persia. Russia was held under the name of the Kipchak Khanate of the Golden Horde.



MAP ACTIVITY

1. On the map, use a bright color to trace the border of the region containing China.
2. Use a different bright color to trace the border of the region containing Russia.

3. Use another bright color to trace the border of the region containing Turkey.
4. On the map, label each region of the Mongol empire with a number showing the order in which the region was conquered.
5. Update the legend to reflect the colors that you added to the map.

ANALYZING MAPS

- 1. Location** Where in the Mongol Empire was Baghdad located?

- 2. Place** What city in the Mongol Empire was conquered four years after Khanbalik (Beijing) was conquered?

- 3. Movement** Which direction did the Mongols travel as they swept across Asia and Europe?

- 4. Region** How many miles apart were the farthest northern part of the Mongol Empire and the farthest southern part of the Mongol Empire?

Genghis Khan

c.1167–1227



WHY HE MADE HISTORY Genghis Khan was the most famous Mongol emperor. He united the Mongol tribes, organized armies, and led campaigns that extended the Mongol Empire throughout Asia.



As you read the biography below, think about how Genghis Khan's organizational skills and leadership helped him organize nomadic tribes and form an empire.

The name Genghis Khan usually makes us think of a fierce and ruthless warrior who spread fear throughout Asia. However, there is much more to Genghis Khan. Ambitious and determined, he was also an extremely intelligent and disciplined organizer. Genghis Khan had a persuasive personality that helped him attract supporters, even among the people he conquered. Known to be flexible and adaptable, he would listen to advice from others, such as his mother, his wife, and men from other cultural backgrounds.

Putting aside his fearsome reputation, we must recognize the extent of Genghis Khan's achievements. He established the Mongol nation, organized an imposing army, and led military campaigns. He was responsible for founding the great Mongol Empire, which became the largest and greatest land empire to ever exist.

Genghis Khan was born with the name Temujin. He was chief of a small Mongol tribe. At this time the Mongol tribes were **nomadic**, disorganized, and at war among themselves. Temujin created an army and conquered the different tribes which he united



© Bettmann/CORBIS

VOCABULARY

nomadic roams from place to place

feudal system political system of landlords and tenants who serve them

catapult military machine for throwing missiles

into a confederacy under a kind of **feudal system**. Temujin exterminated the nobility and eliminated any rivals. In 1206 he was named Genghis Khan, which means “universal ruler.”

With a unified nation, Genghis Khan could now turn to the conquest of neighboring lands. The army was disciplined, well equipped, and fiercely loyal. Made up exclusively of cavalry at the beginning, the army adopted new methods such as using **catapults**, ladders, and burning oil in order to effectively attack cities. City after city was conquered and destroyed until Genghis Khan’s empire extended from the Korean Peninsula in the east to the Black Sea in the west.

Genghis Khan died in 1227, but not before naming one of his sons as his successor and guaranteeing the obedience of his other sons. By leaving an organized army and a strong nation, Genghis Khan made it possible for his successors to continue Mongol conquests until the largest continental empire to exist in medieval or modern times was formed.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Identify What were some of Genghis Khan’s achievements?

2. Draw a Conclusion How did Genghis Khan make sure that the empire would continue to grow after his death?

ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are Genghis Khan and you are trying to decide who will be your successor. Write down five characteristics, in order of importance, that you think your successor should have. Explain why the characteristic you listed as number one is the most important.

A Mongol Oath to Genghis Khan



ABOUT THE READING Genghis Khan, one of the most well-known leaders in history, lived from the mid-1100s until 1227. The *Secret History of the Mongols* was written in about 1240 by an unknown Mongolian writer. The excerpt below is an oath of loyalty.

VOCABULARY

multitudinous numerous

comely attractive



As you read consider how reliable this oath might be and whether the writer wanted to create a particular image of the Mongols.

[The Mongols] declared: “We wish to make you khan”, and they swore the following oath of allegiance: “When you are khan, Temuchin, we will ride as your spearhead against the **multitudinous** enemy and bring back their beautiful women and maidens and their ceremonial tents; and from the foreign tribes we will bring **comely** women and maidens, also their fine-limbed [horses] at a trot, and present them to you. When we hunt the wild animals, we will be in the van of the hunters and will give you [the slaughtered animals]. We will drive the steppe animals towards you in such numbers that their bellies touch, the mountain animals in such numbers that their rumps touch. If, on the day of battle, we do not obey your commands, separate us from our belongings, from our wives and our women and throw our black heads away on the empty steppe. If, in time of peace, we break our word to you, separate us from our

The speakers in the story are two members of Genghis Khan’s clan.

Temuchin was the name given to Genghis Khan at his birth.

“In the van” here means “at the very front.”

A steppe is a region of grassy plains.

From “Rise to Supremacy on the Steppe” (retitled “A Mongol Oath to Genghis Khan”) from *Genghis Khan: His Life and Legacy* by Paul Ratchnevsky, translated and edited by Thomas Nivison Haining. Copyright © 1991 by **Basil Blackwell Ltd.** Reproduced by permission of the publisher.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

- 1.** What inferences can you make from this oath about the way of life of the Mongols?

- 2.** Do you think that people actually swore this oath to Genghis Khan? Explain your answer.

- 3.** How would you describe the attitude of the Mongol clans toward Genghis Khan? Use passages from the oath to support your answer.

China**Section Quiz****Section 4**

MATCHING In the space provided, write the letter of the term or place that matches each description. Some answers will not be used.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| _____ 1. Lived as separate tribes until united in 1206 | a. conquest |
| _____ 2. Title given to the leader who united the tribes mentioned in the previous question | b. empire |
| _____ 3. Self declared emperor of China who founded the Yuan dynasty in 1279 | c. Forbidden City |
| _____ 4. Historical term for the Mongol conquest of China and other parts of Asia and Europe | d. Genghis Khan |
| _____ 5. Italian merchant who traveled through China beginning in 1271 and 1295 | e. Great Wall |
| _____ 6. Founder of the Ming dynasty, he became emperor of China after defeating the Mongols in 1368 | f. isolationism |
| _____ 7. It included almost 1,000 buildings, all of which were off-limits to the common people | g. kamikaze |
| _____ 8. Greatest sailor of the period, led seven grand voyages in 1405 and 1433 | h. Kublai Khan |
| _____ 9. A policy of removing a country from contact with other countries | i. Marco Polo |
| _____ 10. Restored and strengthened under the Ming emperor, it protected China from northern invaders | j. Mongol Ascendancy |
| | k. Mongols |
| | l. trade |
| | m. Zheng He |
| | n. Zhu Yuanzhang |