The Barbarians: The Mongols

**Directions:** Answer the questions based on the video. The questions are listed in the order they appear on the film. You do not need to use complete sentences.

1. What two empires set the standards for human civilization at the end of the 12th century? What lies in between these two empires and who fills this land?

2. What role did the Chin empire in China play in the war between the Mongols and Tatars and why did they do this? What famous Mongol is born during this era of warfare?

3. What does Temujin’s mother tell him when his father is killed? How long does it take Temujin to unite the Mongols and gain the title of Khan?

4. How did Mongolians win battles when they are almost always outnumbered? What did the Mongols do to the Tatars under Genghis Khan?

5. Who did Genghis Khan firmly believe to be firmly in control of all battles and everything that happens on earth? How did he see his role in leading the Mongolians?

6. What were the homes that Mongols lived in called? How does this help Mongolian warriors?

7. Who does Genghis Khan attack in 1211 after the Tatars had been subdued? How were the Mongols able to capture walled cities?

8. What was the “yam” system used by the Mongolians? What news did they bring Genghis in 1218 as he was on the verge of taking over China?

9. Where does Genghis chase of rebels lead him in his conquests? What does Genghis realize about trade as he moves this way?

10. What did Sultan Mohammed of the Islamic Empire of Korazim do to the two trade enjoys that Genghis Khan? What did this cause?

11. Why did Genghis Khan divide his forces when he attacks the city of Samarkand? What did the Mongols do to the governor who stole his trade goods when they conquered his city?

12. What trick did the Mongols use to capture the city of Samarkand? How did the Mongols assure that this Persian Empire would never threaten them again?
13. What area did the Mongol Empire stretch from with the conquest of Persia? What did this do to trade and what was the “Pax Mongolica”? 

14. What happens to Genghis Khan in 1226? What does this prevent him from doing? 

15. Why does no one know where Genghis Khan is buried? What happens to Genghis Khan’s kingdom upon his death? 

16. What happens to the young Muslim Mongol Timur in Korazim when he tries to steal his neighbor’s sheep? 

17. What did Timur do to artisans when he conquered areas? What building in Samarkand is evidence of Timur’s megalomania? 

18. What does Timur conquer from 1385 to the mid 1390’s? Where does he turn his armies in 1398 and how does this hurt his empire? 

19. How did Timur psychologically terrorize his enemies? Who did Timur always spare when he terrorized a city? 

20. What empire stood in the way of Timur’s idea of a Genghis-sized empire? How does Timur end up winning against this empire and its Sultan in 1402? 

21. How did Western Europeans react to the defeat of Sultan Beyazid and why? 

22. What nation does Timur attack in 1404 and what happens to him? 

23. What did Timur say would happen to anyone who disturbed his tomb? What happened to the Soviet Union on the day they opened Timur’s tomb in 1941. 

24. What was the Mongol’s ultimate legacy? Has the world ever seen another empire as large as the Mongolian empire?
The Mongol Empire

Directions: Read the following handout and complete the timeline that follows. The timeline will be collected.

The traditional homeland of the Central Asian people known as the Mongols is a vast highland region in what are now Mongolia and northern China. The Mongols share a common language and a tradition of following a nomadic way of life herding livestock. Their origin is unknown. By the 13th century a confederation of nomadic Mongol tribes had become a powerful military force. Under the leadership of Genghis Khan and his successors, they established an empire that reached from what are now China and Korea in the east to Eastern Europe and the shores of the Persian Gulf in the west. At the height of their power, they overthrew the rulers of northern and southern China and reunited China under Mongol rule, as the Yuan (or Mongol) Dynasty. The Mongols were the first foreigners to rule all of China. The western part of their empire, in Russia and Eastern Europe, was known as the Golden Horde. The power of the Mongol Empire declined greatly in the 14th century.

In 1206 Genghis (or Chinggis) Khan was elected head of the All the Mongols league, a confederation of Mongol tribes, and founded the Mongol Dynasty. Between 1206 and 1227, when Genghis Khan died, the Mongols conquered a dominion that stretched from the China Sea to the Caspian. On the north it bordered the forest belt of Siberia, and on the south it touched the Kunlun Mountains, Tibet, and the central plains of China. The Mongols' impressive military conquests were largely due to their armies of archers mounted on horseback, who possessed great speed and mobility.

Their first attack was launched against the Xi Xia, who occupied a border state in northwestern China. They next began to fight the Jin Dynasty, which controlled the rest of northern China. By 1215 the Mongols had taken the Jin capital of Yanjing (now Beijing). They eventually conquered all of northern China. By 1225 they had taken Turkistan, in Central Asia. Advance troops penetrated into southern Russia and raided cities in the Crimea. The Mongol Empire created by Genghis Khan was not a unified state but a vast collection of territories held together by military force. Because it was controlled by so many military leaders, all theoretically responsible to a leader known as the great khan, the empire carried within it the seeds of its own breakdown.

Central power rested with the great khan and his councillors. Although they were well organized militarily, the Mongols had no developed concept for ruling settled populations. The various territories were under the authority of military commanders. Most new conquests were not administered—just economically exploited. In areas that were under subjugation longer, there was some growth of administration. Local bureaucracies, though dominated by Mongols, usually followed administrative patterns that had been locally developed. This was especially true in China, with its ancient and vast bureaucracy.

While Genghis Khan was still living, he divided the empire between his four sons by his favorite wife. Tolui, the youngest, received eastern Mongolia. Ögödei received western Mongolia and part of northwestern China. Chagatai was given most of Turkistan and part of western China. The oldest son, Jöchi, received southwestern Siberia, western Turkistan, and Russian lands stretching north of the Black Sea. Genghis Khan and Jöchi both died in 1227. At a convocation of Mongol leaders, Ögödei was appointed great khan. Jöchi's lands in the west were inherited by his son Batu. Ögödei made his capital at Karakorum in central Mongolia. He immediately set out to add more of China to the Mongol conquests. By 1234 all but the southernmost region of China had been incorporated.
In the western part of the Empire, or the Golden Horde, Batu began a series of campaigns in 1236 in Russia and Eastern Europe. Resistance in Russia ceased after the fall of Kiev in 1240. The Golden Horde, at its peak, included most of European Russia from the Urals to the Carpathians, and it extended eastward deep into Siberia. The capital was Sarai Batu, on the Volga River. Terrorizing Eastern Europe, Batu's armies reached central Germany before turning southward to establish themselves in Hungary by 1241. The Mongol advance in Europe was stopped in 1241 by the death of Ögödei. Batu and his generals gave up their eastern European territory to return for the election of a new great khan. Because the succession was disputed for several years, Europe was saved from further incursions.

Güyük, a son of Ögödei's widow, was elected great khan in 1246 but died two years later. He was succeeded by Möngke, a son of Tolui. Under him the empire was expanded into unsubdued neighboring countries. The main new conquest was in the Middle East. Hülegü, a brother of Möngke, conquered what are now Iran, Iraq, and Syria in the 1250s. The only defeat the Mongols suffered was at the hands of the Mamluk Dynasty of Egypt in 1260. Hülegü's conquests resulted in the creation of a kingdom of nearly independent rulers, the Il-khans of Persia.

In the east the Mongols opened another campaign against China. During the conflict, in 1279, Möngke died. He was succeeded by his brother Kublai. The selection of Kublai Khan marked a turning point in Mongol history. In theory he was ruler of the whole empire, but he came to regard himself primarily as a Chinese emperor. The other parts of the empire began to go their separate ways. Under Kublai the center of power moved away from Mongolia into China. In 1267 the Mongols built their new capital, Dadu, just outside the old Jin capital, at what is now Beijing. Kublai renamed his dynasty the Yuan (meaning “beginning”) Dynasty, to indicate that it would be the beginning of a long period of Mongol rule. He completed the conquest of China in 1279, finally conquering the Southern Song Dynasty.

In China, the Yuan Dynasty rebuilt the Grand Canal, put the roads and postal service in good order, and made paper money the sole legal currency throughout China. In the Yuan period, many foreigners traveled to China, and many Chinese journeyed to Iran, Russia, and even Western Europe. The Chinese resented their Mongol conquerors, however. The Mongols kept their own language and customs, rather than adopting Chinese ones, and they barred the Chinese from holding the higher political offices.

After Kublai's death in 1294 the Mongol Empire fragmented. From 1300 on, disputes over succession weakened the central government in China, and there were frequent rebellions there. The Yuan Dynasty fell in 1368, overthrown by a Chinese rebel leader who established a new dynasty, the Ming. In the Middle East, the Il-khans had lost power in 1353. The most enduring part of the Mongol Empire was the Golden Horde. It had begun to decline significantly in the 1340s, however, after outbreaks of the plague and the murder of one of its rulers. It broke apart into several smaller territories in the 15th century.

The only other notable Mongol conqueror appeared in the 14th century in the person of Timur Lenk. Although his conquests were extensive, they were temporary and never matched the extent of the empire under Kublai Khan.

MLA style:  
### Mongol History Timeline

**Directions:** Use the reading to complete the timeline below. Remember to include facts about **WHO** was involved and be specific about **WHAT** happened.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1206</td>
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**Also,** what accounted for most of the Mongol’s military success?

**Also,** what helped to create the downfall of the Mongol Empire?

**Also,** what was the Golden Horde? Where was it?

**Also,** what was the effect of the event in 1241?

**Also,** what was so significant about the event of 1279?

**Identify three positives the Yuan Dynasty completed in China.**

**Also,** what happened with the Golden Horde?
Writing Exercises: The Mongols II

Answer each of the following questions using complete sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Describe the status of women in Mongol society.</th>
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| ![Text Box](Image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why were the Mongols so successful at creating an empire?</th>
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| ![Text Box](Image)

<table>
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<th>What led to the decline of the Mongolian empire?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="Image" alt="Text Box" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Mongols: Word Search Puzzle

TERMS

BACTRIAN CAMEL  NOMADS
CENTRAL ASIA  PASTORAL
EURASIA  PAX MONGOLIA
GENGHIS KHAN  SAMARKAND
GLOBAL TRADE  SILK ROAD
GOLDEN HORDE  STEPPE
KHANATE  TAMERLANE
KUBLAI KHAN  TATARS
MONGOL EMPIRE  TIMUR
MONGOLIA  TRANSOXIANA
MONGOLS  YUAN DYNASTY
NOMADIC TRIBES  YURT
The Barbarians: The Mongols

Directions: Answer the questions based on the movie. The questions are listed in the order they appear on the film. You do not need to use complete sentences.

1. What two empires set the standard for human civilization at the end of the 12th century? What lies in between these two empires and who fills this land?
   • Persia
   • Central Asia
   • Three empires lie in between: Xixia Empire, Chin Empire, and Southern Sung Empire
   • In hospitable grasslands

2. What role did the Chin empire in China play in the war between the Mongols and Tatars and why did they do this? What famous Mongol is born during this era of warfare?
   • Chin tried to take over Mongols through divide and conquer
   • The Chin figured that if the Mongols were concerned with other issues that the Chin could easily take over the Mongols
   • Genghis Khan was born in the 12th century

3. What does Temujin's mother tell him when his father is killed? How long does it take Temujin to unite the Mongols and gain the title of Khan?
   • “Seek revenge”
   • 30 years

4. How did Mongolians win battles when they are almost always outnumbered? What did the Mongols do to the Tatars under Genghis Khan?
   • Temujin had charisma and people followed him because of his personality
   • Reorganized society
   • Used horses- operated in small teams
   • Surrounded enemy

5. Who did Genghis Khan firmly believe to be firmly in control of all battles and everything that happens on earth? How did he see his role in leading the Mongolians?
   • Natural hierarchy around him, believed in heaven- protector of nomads.
   • Khan believed when you won a battle that God decided it

6. What were the homes that Mongols lived in called? How does this help Mongolian warriors?
   • The homes they have are tents
   • Canes can be set up in 50 minutes and can be taken down in the same amount of time- meaning they can easily move.

7. Who does Genghis Khan attack in 1211 after the Tatars had been subdued? How were the Mongols able to capture walled cities?
   • The Chin Empire
   • Copied Chinese siege techniques
   • Used drums
   • Borought old prisoners with them
   • Slaughtered every living thing

8. What was the “yam” system used by the Mongolians? What news did they bring Genghis in 1218 as he was on the verge of taking over China?
   • Pony Express- two messengers used to carry messengers. Used horses.
   • Other Khan’s were threatening the Mongols
9. Where does Genghis chase of rebels lead him in his conquests? What does Genghis realize about trade as he moves this way?
- Kwarazm- present day Uzbekistan
- His territories were on the Silk Road
- He used this to his advantage

10. What did Sultan Mohammed of the Islamic Empire of Korazim do to the two trade enjoys that Genghis Khan? What did this cause?
- Genghis Khan found out from Sultan Mohammed that other Mongols were spies
- Genghis Khan realizes that Sultan Mohammed set him up

11. Why did Genghis Khan divide his forces when he attacks the city of Samarkand? What did the Mongols do to the governor who stole his trade goods when they conquered his city?
- The Mongols were dealing with catastrophe
- Khan turned to mobility and surprise- divided his army to attack the governor. Created confusion and diversion

12. What trick did the Mongols use to capture the city of Samarkand? How did the Mongols assure that this Persian Empire would never threaten them again?
- Created confusion and diversion in the north and south

13. What area did the Mongol Empire stretch from with the conquest of Persia? What did this do to trade and what was the “Pax Mongolica”?
- Kozirakum
- Allowed people to travel on the Silk Road in absolute safety

14. What happens to Genghis Khan in 1226? What does this prevent him from doing?
- He was killed
- He was unable to take over and continue to expand.

15. Why does no one know where Genghis Khan is buried? What happens to Genghis Khan's kingdom upon his death?
- He wanted it to remain in secrecy- the people who buried him were killed
- Empire was broken apart into four different parts- given to his sons

16. What happens to the young Muslim Mongol Timur in Korazim when he tries to steal his neighbor's sheep? What will history eventually know him as?
- He was injured. Known as Timur the Lame

17. What did Timur do to artisans when he conquered areas? What building in Samarkand is evidence of Timur's megalomania?
- Tried to genealogically map himself to show that he was related to the leader.
- Wanted to reflect the teachings and life of Genghis Khan
- Muslim building/mosque
18. What does Timur Conquer from 1385 to the mid 1390's? Where does he turn his armies in 1398 and how does this hurt his empire?
   - Conquers western Persia, Georgia, Armenia, the Caucuses
   - 1398- goes over the Hindu Kush to northern India
   - The further he expands, the harder it is to control.

19. How did Timur psychologically terrorize his enemies? Who did Timur always spare when he terrorized a city?
   - Used terror as a weapon of war
   - The artisans

20. What empire stood in the way of Timur's idea of a Genghis-sized empire? How does Timur end up winning against this empire and its Sultan in 1402?
   - The Ottoman Turks
   - Ottoman Turks were weak

21. How did Western Europeans react to the defeat of Sultan Beyazid and why?
   - Sultan Beyazid was cheered by the Western Europeans to meet the Mongols- Western Europeans were shocked when Sultan was defeated
   - Unrestrained joy

22. What nation does Timur attack in 1404 and what happens to him?
   - China- mysteriously falls ill and dies

23. What did Timur say would happen to anyone who disturbed his tomb? What happened to the Soviet Union on the day they opened Timur's tomb in 1941?
   - A fate worst than him would fall on them
   - World War II began- Hitler launched attack on Russia

24. What was the Mongol's ultimate legacy? Has the world ever seen another empire as large as the Mongolian Empire?
   - Governments/military look at the Mongol legacy
   - Nothing like it