

Mongol Roads of Change

Trace how Mongol leaders built an empire and changed connected regions.

SS.6.W.4.11 “Explain the rise and expansion of the Mongol empire and its effects on peoples of Asia and Europe including the achievements of Ghengis and Kublai Khan.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that helped the Mongols rise or expand. Circle two effects of Mongol rule on people in Asia or Europe, then number 1 and 2 beside facts about Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan.

From Steppe Clans to a Vast Empire

- ① During the early 1200s, Temujin brought many Mongol clans together on the grasslands of Central Asia. In 1206, leaders gave him the title Genghis Khan. He organized warriors into disciplined units and promoted people for skill, not family rank. Mongol riders moved quickly, used powerful bows, and shared messages across long distances. Genghis Khan defeated rival groups and began conquering nearby lands. These choices turned scattered clans into a strong empire with an effective army and clear leadership.
- ② After Genghis Khan died in 1227, his sons and grandsons continued the conquests. Mongol armies captured cities in China, Persia, Russia, and parts of eastern Europe. At its greatest extent, the empire stretched from the Pacific coast toward Europe. Mongol rule linked distant regions through protected trade routes and relay stations. Merchants carried silk, spices, ideas, and technologies across Asia and Europe. Yet warfare destroyed communities and killed many people. Mongol armies also helped diseases such as plague travel along busy routes.
- ③ Kublai Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan, completed the conquest of southern China and founded the Yuan dynasty in 1271. He ruled from Dadu, the city now called Beijing, and used both Mongol and Chinese officials. Kublai supported trade, improved parts of the Grand Canal, and used paper money. His government connected China to wider Mongol trade networks, bringing foreign visitors and goods. However, many Chinese people faced heavy taxes and limits under Mongol rule. The empire's expansion created exchange and opportunity, but it also brought conquest, loss, and unequal rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Genghis Khan help scattered Mongol clans become a powerful empire? Give two actions.

2 What does the passage show about the geographic expansion of the Mongol empire after Genghis Khan died?

3 Name two achievements of Kublai Khan in China.

4 Describe one beneficial effect and one harmful effect of Mongol expansion on people in Asia or Europe.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence historical explanation. State how Genghis Khan helped the empire rise, how Kublai Khan governed or changed China, and one effect on people in Asia or Europe. Use *because* or *therefore* in one sentence to show cause and effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that helped the Mongols rise or expand. Circle two effects of Mongol rule on people in Asia or Europe, then number 1 and 2 beside facts about Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Genghis Khan help scattered Mongol clans become a powerful empire? Give two actions.	He organized warriors into disciplined units and promoted people for skill rather than family rank.
2	What does the passage show about the geographic expansion of the Mongol empire after Genghis Khan died?	His successors conquered lands in China, Persia, Russia, and parts of eastern Europe, creating an empire that stretched from the Pacific coast toward Europe.
3	Name two achievements of Kublai Khan in China.	He completed the conquest of southern China and founded the Yuan dynasty. He also supported trade, improved parts of the Grand Canal, used paper money, and ruled with Mongol and Chinese officials.
4	Describe one beneficial effect and one harmful effect of Mongol expansion on people in Asia or Europe.	Benefits included protected trade routes and the movement of goods, ideas, and technologies. Harms included warfare, destroyed communities, deaths, disease spread, heavy taxes, and limits under Mongol rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Genghis Khan united Mongol clans and organized a disciplined army. Because his riders moved quickly and shared messages, Mongol forces conquered nearby lands. Later, Kublai Khan founded the Yuan dynasty and ruled China from Dadu. He supported trade and improved parts of the Grand Canal. Mongol expansion connected regions through trade, but people also suffered from warfare, taxes, and limits under Mongol rule.

Accept equivalent evidence from the passage for each leader's actions and for positive or negative effects. In the open response, check for five sentences, accurate references to both leaders, at least one effect, and a clear cause-and-effect word.