Across the Steppe

Trace how Mongol power grew and changed life across Asia.

7.H.7 "Trace the rise, spread, and influence of the Mongols."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show how the Mongols gained strength. Number three events that show their spread in time order, then circle two effects of their rule on people's lives.

From Grasslands to Empire

1 On the grasslands of Mongolia, families moved with their herds, and skilled riders learned to travel long distances. Rival groups often fought over animals and pasture. In 1206, a leader named Temujin united many of these groups and took the title Genghis Khan. He rewarded loyal followers and organized fighters into units that included people from different clans. This made warriors answer to their commanders instead of only to their relatives. With a larger, more united army, the Mongols could launch campaigns far beyond the grasslands.

2 Mounted archers could move quickly, send messages, and strike from unexpected directions. Mongol armies also learned siege methods from people they conquered, which helped them take walled cities. Under Genghis Khan, they attacked the Jin dynasty in northern China and defeated the Khwarazmian Empire in Central Asia. After his death in 1227, his successors kept expanding. By 1279, his grandson Kublai Khan had completed the conquest of China and ruled there as emperor of the Yuan dynasty. Other branches of the family ruled parts of Central Asia, Persia, and Russia.

3 Conquest brought destruction to some cities and terrible losses of life. Yet Mongol rulers also connected lands that had once been divided by rival powers. They protected many trade routes and maintained relay stations where messengers could change horses. Merchants and travelers could cross long stretches of Asia under Mongol rule, carrying silk, spices, ideas, and technologies between regions. Such travel was not safe everywhere or for everyone, but these connections increased exchange between East Asia, Central Asia, and Europe. Mongol rule thus changed lives far beyond the battlefield.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Genghis Khan's changes help the Mongols expand beyond the grasslands?

2. What did Mongol armies learn that helped them take walled cities? How did they learn it?

3. How did Mongol rule spread after Genghis Khan died? Name one later conquest and one other region ruled by his family.

4. How did Mongol expansion change travel and trade across Asia? Include one cost or limit of their rule.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences for a museum audio guide that traces Mongol history from steppe alliances to expansion across Asia and an effect on trade. Use at least two facts from the passage and explain two cause-and-effect links in your own words.

ANSWER KEY

Across the Steppe

GRADE 7 · 7.H.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show how the Mongols gained strength. Number three events that show their spread in time order, then circle two effects of their rule on people's lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Genghis Khan's changes help the Mongols expand beyond the grasslands?	**He united rival groups and organized fighters from different clans into units, creating a larger army that followed its commanders.**
2	What did Mongol armies learn that helped them take walled cities? How did they learn it?	**They learned siege methods from people they conquered.**
3	How did Mongol rule spread after Genghis Khan died? Name one later conquest and one other region ruled by his family.	**His successors continued expanding. Kublai Khan completed the conquest of China, while other family branches ruled parts of Central Asia, Persia, or Russia.**
4	How did Mongol expansion change travel and trade across Asia? Include one cost or limit of their rule.	**Protected routes and relay stations helped travelers cross Asia and increased exchange. Conquest also destroyed cities and cost lives, and travel was not safe for everyone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Temujin joined rival groups in 1206, so their fighters could act as one army. Fast riders and learned siege skills helped Mongol forces conquer lands in Central Asia and take walled cities. His successors pushed farther, and Kublai Khan completed the conquest of China in 1279. Because Mongol rulers guarded trade routes and set up stations for messengers to change horses, more goods and ideas moved between distant regions.

Accept other accurate sequences and effects supported by the passage. The audio guide should trace rise, spread, and influence, with two clear cause-and-effect links.