

Routes of Change

Trace how Mongol rule connected regions and spread change.

6.7b “The Mongol conquests in Eurasia fostered connections between the East and the West, and the Mongols served as important agents of change and cultural diffusion.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show people, goods, ideas, or disease moving between regions. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three effects those connections had on communities.

A Connected Eurasia

- ① In the 1200s, Mongol armies conquered a huge area from China across Central Asia to parts of eastern Europe. The conquest was often violent, but it also brought many lands under connected Mongol rulers. Travelers and traders could cross long stretches of Eurasia with fewer border conflicts than before. Mongol leaders protected some trade routes because taxes on trade brought them wealth. This period of safer travel is sometimes called Pax Mongolica, or Mongol Peace, although warfare still occurred in some places.
- ② To rule diverse peoples, Mongol governments often kept local officials and allowed many religions to continue. They improved communication with a relay system of stations, where messengers could get fresh horses, food, and shelter. Official messages moved quickly across the empire. Merchants also benefited from protected routes and official travel documents. Chinese goods, such as silk and porcelain, reached western markets. In return, people in East Asia encountered goods and ideas that had traveled from western and central regions. The empire linked communities that had once had less direct contact.
- ③ Connections also carried danger. The Black Death, a deadly plague, spread across trade networks in the 1300s. It likely traveled with infected fleas on rodents and reached ports and cities in Asia, Europe, and North Africa. Trade did not cause the disease, but busy routes helped it move between regions. The plague killed millions of people and changed communities. Labor shortages gave some surviving workers more power to demand wages, while families and governments faced loss and disruption. Mongol rule therefore increased both useful exchanges and harmful ones.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Mongol conquest make long-distance travel easier for some traders and travelers?

2 How did the Mongol relay stations help the empire rule and connect distant places?

3 Give one example of something that moved east or west because of Mongol-era connections. Tell where it went.

4 Why did the Black Death spread to distant regions, and what was one effect of the disease?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write four sentences about a made-up traveler using a Mongol-era route. Use an item or idea not named in the passage, and explain how Mongol rule helps it reach another region and change what people do there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show people, goods, ideas, or disease moving between regions. Number 1, 2, and 3 beside three effects those connections had on communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Mongol conquest make long-distance travel easier for some traders and travelers?	It placed many lands under connected Mongol rulers, so travelers faced fewer border conflicts on long routes.
2	How did the Mongol relay stations help the empire rule and connect distant places?	Messengers could get fresh horses, food, and shelter at stations, allowing official messages to move quickly across the empire.
3	Give one example of something that moved east or west because of Mongol-era connections. Tell where it went.	Chinese silk or porcelain reached western markets. People in East Asia also encountered goods and ideas from western and central regions.
4	Why did the Black Death spread to distant regions, and what was one effect of the disease?	Busy trade routes helped the disease move between regions. It killed millions, caused disruption, and created labor shortages that gave some workers more power to demand wages.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Mongol officials protect a route linking Central Asia and a city in China. A trader carries a new kind of musical instrument westward. At a relay station, travelers hear its music and share it with another trader. At a western market, local musicians learn to make and play it.

Accept other accurate explanations that connect Mongol rule, safer routes, relay stations, or travel documents to movement across Eurasia. For the open response, look for a plausible chain from Mongol policy or route to cross-regional exchange and a community effect.