

Name _____

Rise of the Mongol Empire

1260-1368

Instructions: Complete the vocabulary below and then use the vocabulary as a word bank to complete the fill-in-the-blank exercise.

Vocabulary: Mongols, herders, Genghis Khan, tribes, terror, Kublai Khan, Khanbaliq, Marco Polo, steppes

- _____ 1. Group who lived in the northernmost part of China
- _____ 2. Tactic used to scare people into surrendering
- _____ 3. The Mongols made this their capital. It is now the modern city of Beijing
- _____ 4. Groups or families who are loosely joined together
- _____ 5. Leader who united the Mongols and conquered eastern China and Central Asia
- _____ 6. European traveler who visited China during Mongol rule in the 1300's.
- _____ 7. People who raise and follow livestock as a way of survival.
- _____ 8. Grassy plains that lie between the Black Sea and northern China.

Overview of the Mongol Empire

The Mongols were originally from an area north of China called Mongolia. Originally, they were

_____ who followed sheep, cattle, and horses across the grassy _____ of central Asia. Though the Mongols started out as a loose association of _____, in 1206 they were united under one ruler named _____. Once in power, he raised a disciplined and well-trained army of 100,000 soldiers. He initially began building the Mongol Empire by conquering other cities and civilizations on the steppes. As his territory grew, so too did his power and army. By the year 1211, his army had conquered northern China and central Asia. His soldiers were known for their _____ tactics, as many cities were robbed, burned and destroyed.

Genghis Khan died in 1227 after a fall from his horse. His successors expanded the empire so that by the 1250's, Mongol territory stretched from the Pacific Ocean in the east to eastern Europe, and from the Himalayas Mountains in the south to Siberia in the North. It was the largest empire the world had ever seen!

In 1260, _____ was named leader of the empire. He conquered southern China in the 1270's by overthrowing the Song Dynasty. He moved his capital to the modern-day city of Beijing, known then as _____. He opened up trade with Europe. It was during this time that Europeans were introduced to things like the compass, gunpowder, and porcelain. As a result, trade boomed throughout the Mongol territories. One European explorer from Venice, _____, toured the China under Mongol rule in the 1300's. His writings about Chinese cities fascinated Europeans, which led to increased trade and communication.

The Mongol Empire was the largest empire the world had seen up to that time. They lasted until 1368 when the Ming Dynasty finally overthrew the last Mongol ruler. Until that time, the Mongols, though cruel and brutal in battle, did much to open up trade and communication with cultures throughout Asia and Europe during the 13th and 14th centuries.