

Module 10: Asian Civilizations and their Cultural Exchanges

Topic 1 Content: The Mongols

Introduction



Click the images at the bottom of the interactivity to learn about the Mongols. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring each topic. Click NEXT to begin.

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Topic 1 Content: The Mongols

Genghis Khan

The Mongols



Genghis Khan

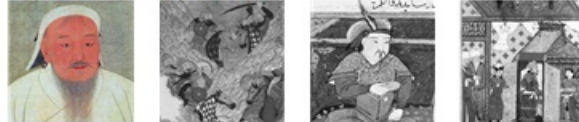
Clans wandered the Asian steppe until 1200 A.D. (C.E.).

Temujin brought the clans together.

Temujin defeated his rivals and was titled Genghis Khan.

Genghis Khan built a massive empire.

Image: Genghis Khan



For centuries, small groups of Mongol clans wandered the Asian steppe until around 1200 A.D. (C.E.) when one Mongol clan leader, named Temujin, brought them together under his leadership. By 1206, Temujin defeated his rivals and accepted the title Genghis Khan, or “universal ruler” of the Mongol clans. Over the next twenty years, Genghis Khan worked to build a massive empire.

Module 10: Asian Civilizations and their Cultural Exchanges

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The Mongol Empire

The Mongols



The Mongol Empire

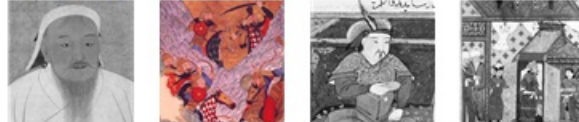
Genghis Khan first targeted China and then the Persian Empire.

Genghis Khan's sons and grandsons continued conquests and expansion.

Mongols invaded Kiev and captured Baghdad.

Mongols adopted weapons, technologies, and religions after conquests.

Image: Mongol cavalry



Genghis Khan's first target of conquest was northern China. Numerous Chinese cities fell to the brutal Mongols. The next target was the Persian Empire, which included the modern-day countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran. After his death, Genghis Khan's sons and grandsons continued the Mongol conquests and expansion. The Mongols invaded the Russian city of Kiev, and captured the Islamic capital of Baghdad. The Mongols adopted new weapons and technologies used by their enemies, and in some cases, took on the local religions after conquest, such as Islam.

Module 10: Asian Civilizations and their Cultural Exchanges

Topic 1 Content: The Mongols

The Mongol Downfall

The Mongols



The Mongol Downfall

In 1260, the Mongol Empire was divided into 4 khanates.

1. The Khanate of the Great Khan (Mongolia and China)
2. The Khanate of Chagatai (Central Asia)
3. The Ilkhanate (Persia)
4. The Khanate of the Golden Horde (Russia)

Divisions sparked internal disputes.
Mongols did not conquer Japan.

Image: Genghis Khan's grandson, Hulagu Khan of the Ilkhanate khanate



In 1260, the Mongol Empire was divided into four large khanates in the hopes that splitting the empire would make it more manageable. Each khanate was ruled by a descendant of Genghis Khan:

- 1) The Khanate of the Great Khan included Mongolia and China;
- 2) The Khanate of Chagatai included Central Asia;
- 3) The Ilkhanate included Persia; and
- 4) The Khanate of the Golden Horde included Russia.

The divisions unfortunately did not strengthen the Mongol Empire, but sparked internal disputes and further disunity. A major sign that the Mongols were losing strength was their failure to conquer the tiny archipelago of Japan. Despite launching two massive invasions against Japan, the Mongols were twice defeated.

Module 10: Asian Civilizations and their Cultural Exchanges

Topic 1 Content: The Mongols

The Mongol Legacy

The Mongols



The Mongol Legacy

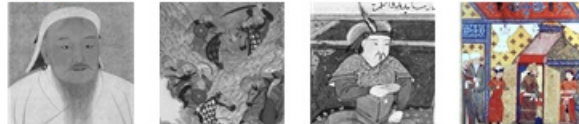
Mongols conquered most of Asia, Persia, the Middle East, and Russia.

Trade flourished between Europe and Asia.

Cultural exchanges increased.

The Mongols were tolerant of religions they encountered.

Image: Ghazan converting from Buddhism to Islam



The Mongols conquered nearly all of Asia, Persia, the Middle East, and Russia. While the Mongols were undeniably fierce conquerors, the exchanges they initiated between the people they came in contact with lasted well beyond the existence of the Mongol Empire. Under the protection of the Mongols, who controlled the Silk Road, trade flourished between Europe and Asia. From China, items like gunpowder and porcelain moved westward into Europe. Techniques of papermaking reached the Middle East, and crops and trees from the Middle East were carried into Asia. Cultural exchanges additionally increased as foods, tools, and inventions spread along the trade routes. The Mongols were generally tolerant of other religions they came in contact with, and did little to hinder the development of Christianity and Islam. Although prominent Mongols converted to Christianity, Islam was far more successful in spreading its message among the Mongols and the people they conquered.