In this chapter, you will learn about developments in Asia during the “post-classical” era of history, especially in Turkey, Central Asia, India, and China. You will also learn about later developments in parts of Asia, reaching into the next historical time period.

**Essential Questions**

- What were the major civilizations of Asia in the post-classical era?
- What were the effects of the Mongol invasions?
- What were the achievements of the Ottomans, Mughals, and Ming Chinese?
UNLAWFUL TO PHOTOCOPY

CHAPTER 10: Post-Classical Asia and Beyond

SOCIAL STUDIES TERMINOLOGY IN THIS CHAPTER

- Ottomans
- Suleiman the Magnificent
- Safavid Empire
- Tamerlane
- Taj Mahal
- Sikhism
- Tang Dynasty
- Song Dynasty
- Samurai
- Mongol Empire
- Chinggis Khan
- Kublai Khan
- Yuan Dynasty
- Marco Polo
- Ming Dynasty

IMPORTANT IDEAS

A. The Ottomans established their capital at Istanbul (formerly Constantinople), where the Sultan ruled with an elaborate court. The Ottomans ruled a vast empire that included Eastern Europe and North Africa. Jews and Christians were permitted some self-government.

B. Islam spread to Persia and then across the Himalayas to northwest India. Muslim rulers set up Sultanates, and Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal.

C. Sikhism, founded by Guru Nanak, rejected ritualistic practices and the caste system.

D. China flourished under the Tang and Song Dynasties. China developed paper money, gunpowder, block printing, and the compass.

E. Japanese culture was deeply influenced by China.

F. The Mongols, led by Chinggis Khan, conquered Central Asia, China, and Russia. Kublai Khan adopted Chinese ways.

G. Under the Ming Dynasty, China enjoyed 300 years of peace and prosperity. The Ming built the Forbidden City in Beijing. Later Ming China traded silk and porcelain with Europe for silver and other goods.

RISE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

In the last chapter, we saw how Arab Muslims created a vast Islamic civilization that eventually spread from Spain to the Indus River. The Ottomans, a nomadic group of Turkish people originally from Central Asia, emerged as rulers of the Islamic world in the 13th century. In 1453, they succeeded in capturing Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. The Ottoman Empire was located between Europe and Asia and interacted with both Eastern and Western culture throughout its history.
The Ottomans moved their capital to Constantinople and renamed the city Istanbul. The Ottomans also conquered Egypt and North Africa, re-uniting all of the Muslim world under their rule, except for Persia and Afghanistan. They next conquered parts of Eastern Europe. By the mid-1500s, under Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire reached its height. The Ottoman fleet controlled much of the trade in the Mediterranean Sea until their defeat in 1571 by Spaniards and Venetians.

At the heart of the Ottoman system was the Sultan (ruler) and his lavish court. From Istanbul, the Sultan governed the entire empire as an all-powerful ruler. Under the Sultan’s rule, the early Ottoman Empire was well-organized and efficiently governed. He was assisted by a special army — the Janissaries, made up of soldiers recruited in childhood. The Ottomans recognized the cultural diversity of their empire. Jewish and Christian communities were represented by their own leaders. These communities were governed by their own laws and collected their own taxes. These methods of government, as well as Ottoman control over the crossroads of trade, promoted prosperity and stability.

**THE SAFAVID EMPIRE IN PERSIA**

Islam also spread to Persia. The Safavids created a great Islamic empire in Persia in the early 1500s. Members of a Turkish tribe, the Safavids were Shi’ite Muslims. They were opposed to the Ottomans, who followed the Sunni branch of Islam.

Their association with Shi’ite Islam gave the Safavids an identity separate from their Turkish and Arab neighbors, still affecting Iran today. Safavid rule eventually extended as far south as the Persian Gulf and east to the Indus River. Safavid rulers, known as Shahs, used their large standing armies to maintain control. The Safavid court became famous for its beautiful palace carpets and paintings in miniature.
THE MUSLIM INVASION OF INDIA

The impact of Islam was felt even farther east than Turkey and Persia. As early as the 8th century, Muslim invaders reached the Indus Valley by entering across the mountains through the Khyber Pass to the northwest of the Indian subcontinent.

THE MUSLIM INVASIONS

In the 11th and 12th centuries, Turkish Muslims invaded India’s northern plains, destroying Hindu temples and cities. Historians believe large numbers of Hindus were tragically killed in these invasions. Muslims established independent kingdoms in Northern India, known as Sultanates.

The most important Sultanate was established around 1200 at Delhi. For the next 320 years, the Sultans of Delhi ruled much of Northern and Central India. Unlike prior conquerors, the Muslims never fully adopted Indian ways. For example, Muslim women wore veils and remained secluded, even though Hindu women did not. At the end of the 14th century, the Mongol ruler Tamerlane destroyed the city of Delhi and slaughtered its inhabitants. The Delhi Sultanate never fully recovered from this blow.

THE MUGHAL EMPIRE (1526–1837)

In 1526, Babur, a descendant of both Tamerlane and Chinggis Khan, defeated the Sultan of Delhi and founded the Mughal Empire. Although the name was taken from “Mongol,” the Mughals were Muslims with close ties to Safavid Persia. Because the later Ottoman and Mughal Empires used guns to control their populations and fight their enemies, historians often refer to these as the “Gunpowder Empires.”

The most famous Mughal ruler was Babur’s grandson, Akbar the Great (1542–1605). Akbar conquered neighboring Muslim and Hindu states, uniting Northern India under his rule.

Akbar next set out to unite all his Muslim and Hindu subjects by promoting religious toleration. He ended the special taxes paid by the Hindus, and made use of Hindu officials in government. To govern his large empire more efficiently, Akbar divided it into twelve provinces. Well-trained imperial officials were sent to supervise local government, enforce laws, and ensure the collection of taxes. Akbar also encouraged learning, painting, music, and literature.
Akbar’s grandson, Shah Jahan (1628–1658), showed less sympathy for Hindus. He re-imposed special taxes on them and ordered the destruction of many Hindu temples. In the northwest and northeast, many people converted to Islam. Some of these people changed their religion to avoid paying the special taxes. Others converted because they were from lower castes and hoped to escape the caste system.

Under Jahan’s rule, Mughal artistic and architectural achievements reached a high point. Jahan built palaces, fortresses, and mosques to glorify his reign. The most famous and beautiful of his buildings, the **Taj Mahal**, was a tomb built for his wife. It stands as one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture, merging elements of Persian, Islamic and Indian styles. Although the Mughals continued to rule in the north until 1857, a series of small, independent kingdoms developed in Central and Southern India. Soon afterwards, the Mughal Empire began to fall apart.

**Sikhism**

Sikhism was founded in Northern India in 1469 by Guru Nanak. **Guru** means spiritual guide or teacher. Sikhs believe in one God and that all human beings are equal in the eyes of God. Therefore, Sikhs reject the caste system. Sikhs further believe that each of us can reach salvation — or union with God — by practicing devotion to God, truthful living, service to humanity, and standing up for justice for all people. To emphasize the ideal of equality, after every Sikh service, a communal meal is shared by all participants on the floor. Sikh men cover their uncut hair with a *dastar* (or Sikh turban), while Sikh women also keep their hair uncut.

**Acting as an Amateur Historian**

Look on the Internet or in your school library for descriptions of the interior of the Taj Mahal. Then imagine you have paid a visit to this building. Write a letter to a friend describing what you saw during your visit.
The Tang and Song Dynasties of China

Like Western Europe after the decline of the Roman Empire, China entered a long period of turmoil and unrest after the collapse of the Han Dynasty in 220 A.D. As in the West, the advance of the Huns helped plunge China into disunity. Several warring kingdoms arose, and science, art and culture declined. In these same years, Buddhism spread through much of China.

This period in China’s history is known as the Six Dynasties. It took several hundred years before China re-emerged as one of the world’s leading civilizations under the Tang Dynasty.

Tang Dynasty (618-907)

During the Tang Dynasty, China experienced a Golden Age. Early Tang rulers suppressed peasant uprisings, reunited China, revived traditional feudal relationships, and brought about peace and prosperity. They ruled over an immense empire of more than 50 million people. China expanded into Korea, Manchuria and parts of Central Asia. The government took careful censuses (population counts), gave examinations on Confucian texts to candidates for government service, and built public works. Under the early Tang, every adult male received a fixed amount of land from the government. Peasants had to perform labor for the imperial government and paid taxes in the form of grain and silk.

Under Empress Wu Zetian, government officials made recommendations for reforms. A magnificent capital city was built at Chang’an. At the time, this city was the largest city in the world. Merchants and officials from Persia, India, Arabia, and Syria could be found there.
Architecture, sculpture, painting, and porcelain all made great advances. Stimulated by its contacts with India and the Middle East, the Tang Dynasty became one of the high points of Chinese civilization, especially with its accomplishments in literature and art. Artists developed a distinct style of pottery with painted glazed figures of green, yellow and orange. Artists also excelled in metalwork and jade. Vessels and utensils of all kinds were made by skilled craftsmen. Tang painters depicted nature with brushwork on scrolls, and Tang poets celebrated court life.

Under the Tang, the Chinese developed a unique form of garden — with streams, rocks and trees — designed for peaceful contemplation. The Tang also made important innovations in map-making, medicine, and printing. Tang China developed block printing, so that copies of Confucian texts could be printed to help candidates for government service with their examinations. The Tang encouraged commerce and handicrafts, making the Silk Road busier than ever before. Tang China benefited from its trade with Persia, Arabia, Japan and the Byzantine Empire.

**SONG DYNASTY (960–1279)**

After the fall of the Tang Dynasty in 907, China again shrank in size. In 960, the Song Dynasty emerged in the south. Later, a rival dynasty was established in the north. Despite this reduction in area, Song China continued to build upon the achievements of the Tang.

The Song Dynasty was one of the most brilliant cultural eras in Chinese history. It was a time of great social and economic progress. China saw the first use of paper currency, making it possible to pay taxes using money rather than grain. The government further minted strings of standardized coins, made of copper and iron. The Song also eliminated forced labor for the emperor. These factors helped bring about a large increase in farm production, which led to greater wealth for China’s people and government.

Song China was the most populous and advanced civilization of its day. Merchants, craftspeople, and scholars lived in the larger towns and cities. Bustling shops lined city streets. The Song capital housed more than a million people. China engaged in trade with many other parts of the world.
The Grand Canal, connecting Beijing, the Hwang Ho, and the Yangtze River, was used to ship grain within China. Caravans carried silks over the Silk Road. Large ships brought Chinese goods to Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia, India, and Africa. Science and technology also made advances. Song astronomers developed new instruments; doctors studied acupuncture; and mathematicians solved advanced equations. They introduced the use of gunpowder in war, the compass in navigation, and invented moveable type for printing.

The greatest threat the Song faced consisted of tribes on China’s northern border. In order to secure their borders, the Song allied themselves with a new people in the north, the Mongols. The alliance proved to be a mistake. The Mongols soon overran the empire and established a foreign dynasty to rule over China — the Yuan Dynasty.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES

Technology. Block printing, the crossbow, gunpowder, and the abacus (a machine that counts beads for arithmetic) were first developed in China during the Tang and Song dynasties.

Compass. The Chinese discovered that a magnetized needle floating in a water bowl always points north-south. Traders at sea used the compass to determine their direction when sailing.

The Arts. Chinese artists perfected the art of making porcelains and painting with black ink on silk paper. Chinese poets and historians wrote important works.

WOMEN IN CHINA

The Tang and Song followed the traditional beliefs of Confucianism — a woman must obey her father, husband and son. Girls left their families when they married. So long as they gave birth to sons, they would eventually gain a respected place in their new family by marriage. If a woman’s husband died, she could share in receiving a portion of her husband’s land. Divorce was allowed if accepted by both husband and wife.

The practice of female footbinding began under the Song Dynasty and illustrates the desire to limit female mobility. Girls’ feet were bound in tight bandages. This gave wealthy women small feet, which were considered attractive, but which often made it difficult for them to walk.

CHINA’S INFLUENCE ON JAPAN

One area deeply influenced by Chinese culture was Japan. Chinese and Korean scholars and merchants brought many aspects of Chinese culture to Japan, a group of islands located close to Korea. Confucianism instilled loyalty to the family and ruler. Buddhism taught the Japanese to renounce selfish desires, while Daoism encouraged a love of nature.
The Chinese method of writing characters was also adopted in Japan. Chinese music, art, dance and even cooking influenced Japanese styles and tastes. The Japanese were greatly impressed by the quality of many Chinese goods, such as silks and pottery. The ruler of Japan set up an imperial court, in imitation of China, and declared himself emperor.

Although greatly influenced by China, Japanese society was not an exact copy. As time passed, Japanese emperors freed some of their nobles from their tax burdens. Many noble landowners began to raise their own private armies of warriors. The imperial government, collecting less taxes, grew weaker. Open warfare finally broke out between the leading noble families. In 1192, one of the nobles emerged as the most powerful. Instead of overthrowing the emperor, he had the emperor appoint him as Japan’s “Supreme Military Governor,” known in Japanese as the Shogun. For the next 600 years, the Shoguns were the real rulers of Japan, with the emperors merely acting as figureheads.

The Shogun stood at the top of Japan’s feudal system. To provide military protection for their lands, noble landowners recruited samurai warriors — knights on horseback with armor of leather and iron, and swords. Each samurai swore an oath of loyalty to the emperor and to his local daimyo (noble). A samurai promised to follow a strict code of honor (bushido) that emphasized the loyalty of the samurai to the daimyo. In return for this loyalty, the daimyo provided the samurai with social status and economic support.

**APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

What were some of the ways in which Japanese culture was affected by China?

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
THE MONGOL EMPIRE

THE GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

Stretching across Eurasia from the Carpathian Mountains of Eastern Europe to Manchuria in Northeast Asia is an almost unbroken band of treeless grasslands, known as the steppes. This band is situated between forests to the north and mountains and deserts to the south. From earliest times, nomadic people have lived in this area by herding horses, sheep, camels, and goats. They have made use of the vast grasslands as pastures for their livestock.

The steppes provided a unique environment in which these nomadic peoples developed excellence at horsemanship and fierce fighting skills. Throughout history, a series of nomadic peoples have pushed out of this region to conquer their more civilized neighbors, sometimes with devastating effects.

The Huns, repelled by the Chinese emperors, invaded Europe and contributed to the collapse of the Roman Empire. Later, the Turks and the Mongols also came out of Central Asia. The Mongols lived in the steppes of the eastern part of Central Asia, northwest of China. They slept in domed tents of felt, which could be easily moved. Like other Central Asian nomads, the Mongols were excellent horsemen and archers. During the 1200s, the Mongols established the greatest empire the world had ever seen.

CHINGGIS KHAN UNITES THE MONGOLS

Like other nomadic peoples, the Mongols were divided into several loosely organized tribes. A Mongol leader named Chinggis Khan (or Ghengis Khan) united the various Mongol tribes by 1206. After he had established himself as undisputed master of Mongolia, he set out on a career of conquest. Chinggis Khan next began attacking neighboring peoples beyond Mongolia.
Others had little chance against 200,000 skilled Mongol horsemen, riding with sturdy stirrups, carrying strong bamboo bows, and attacking cities with giant catapults. The Mongols became known for their fierce brutality, sometimes killing all the defenders of a city that refused to surrender without resistance.

Chinggis Khan attacked Northern China, successfully taking the city of Beijing. In 1219, he turned westward and captured the Muslim states of Central Asia.

Although he was greatly feared as a brutal warrior, Chinggis Khan was tolerant of other religions within his conquered territories. He made use of local administrators and craftspeople. He promoted trade throughout the vast Mongol Empire and even ordered the creation of a written script for the Mongol language.

Under Chinggis Khans’ successors, Mongol rule extended into Persia, Russia, Iraq, and the rest of China. The Mongols then held sway over one of the largest empires the world has ever seen — from the Black Sea to the Pacific Ocean. Under this “Pax Mongolica,” people could safely trade from one end of the empire to the other. The Mongol Empire was so vast that it soon divided into four separate kingdoms, each ruled by a different descendant of Chinggis Khan.

The Yuan Dynasty

Chinggis’ grandson, Kublai Khan, was born a Mongolian, but developed a great fascination with Chinese culture, traditions, and art. He became emperor of Northern China in 1260. In 1279, he reunited Northern and Southern China under his rule. Mongols served as his military aristocracy, ruling China with the help of Chinese officials. Kublai Khan encouraged the Mongols to adopt Chinese ways and even adopted the Chinese name Yuan for his dynasty. He claimed the Mandate of Heaven in ruling China.
**Marco Polo**, a merchant from Venice, journeyed along the Silk Road and visited China in the 1270s. He was astounded at the magnificence of Kublai Khan’s court and the technological superiority of the Chinese over the Europeans of his day. He was especially impressed by their use of gunpowder and their burning of coal as a source of heat.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

After returning to Venice, Marco Polo published what he had witnessed, inspiring great curiosity among Europeans about China. Europeans adopted many of their inventions. Here he writes about what he saw on his visit to Kublai Khan in Beijing:

> **THE TRAVELS OF MARCO POLO**
>
> "Now there was on this spot a great and noble city called [Beijing]. As regards the size of this city, it is 24 square miles, since each side is 6 miles long. It is walled around with walls of earth, 10 paces thick at bottom, and a height of more than 10 paces. There are 12 gates, and over each gate is a great palace with vast halls in which are kept the arms of the city guard. The streets are so straight and wide that you can see right along them from end to end and from one gate to the other. And up and down the city there are many great and fine inns and fine houses in great numbers. The whole city is arranged in squares just like a chessboard. In the middle of the city there is a bell—which is struck at night. And after it has struck three times no one must go out in the city, unless for the needs of a woman in labor, or of the sick. Moreover, the established guard at each gate of the city is 1,000 armed men; not to imagine this guard is kept up for fear of any attack, but only as a guard of honor for the sovereign, who resides there, and to prevent thieves from doing mischief in the town."

What features of the city does Marco Polo find so amazing and different?

---

**MONGOL INFLUENCE ON RUSSIA**

In the 13th century, Mongol warriors also conquered most of Russia. They controlled it for the next 200 years. Mongol words, customs, and even clothing styles found their way into Russian culture. Moscow and its surrounding territories, known as Muscovy, became the strongest Russian state. Muscovites eventually rebelled against the Mongols. In 1480, Ivan the Great declared Muscovy’s independence from the Mongols. He proclaimed himself Tsar (“Caesar” or Emperor). Ivan soon set about increasing Muscovy’s size by conquering neighboring lands.
THE RULE OF TAMERLANE

In the 14th century, Mongol power enjoyed a brief resurgence in Central Asia. **Tamerlane**, a Turkish-Mongol ruler, expanded his kingdom from Samarkand into Persia, Afghanistan, Russia, Syria, Turkey, and Northern India. Tamerlane was known for his brutality in warfare and his massacre of civilian populations. His empire did not long outlast his death.

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Throughout history, different groups have possessed advantages in warfare that enabled them to defeat others. What were some of the advantages of the Mongols?

THE MING DYNASTY (1368-1644)

Despite their achievements, the Mongols remained unpopular in China. In 1368, the Mongols were overthrown by a Chinese monk, who established the **Ming Dynasty**.

Under the Ming Dynasty, China enjoyed nearly 300 years of peace and prosperity. Ming emperors expanded the empire to include Korea, Burma, and Vietnam. The Ming constructed an immense imperial palace in **Beijing**. Known as the **Forbidden City**, it became home to all later Chinese emperors, where they were revered as gods.

Under the Ming, Chinese society consisted of two main classes. Most people were peasants, barely earning a living. The peasants were largely illiterate, and their lives centered around their relatives and the village. The other main social group consisted of the scholar-gentry class. They owned the land on which the peasants worked. The gentry greatly respected learning. The Ming restored China's civil service examinations, and children of the scholar-gentry studied to pass these demanding tests, which focused on Confucian teachings.
In addition to these two classes, there were merchants and craftsmen, who lived in the Ming cities. Craftsmen excelled at printing and in producing silks and porcelains of great beauty. Urban life and trade prospered, while China exported silk, porcelain, and other luxury goods.

The Ming emperor sponsored several great naval expeditions in the early 1400s in order to spread the news of China’s wealth and power. The Chinese explorer Zheng He sailed to the coasts of India and Arabia. However, in the 1430s, the Ming emperor suddenly ordered an end to these voyages because of the opposition of several noble families at court. Thus, just when Europe began expanding its horizons, Chinese rulers halted their explorations, believing their system was already in perfect balance and that change would be harmful.

Direct European contact with China was already established in the 16th century. In 1557, Portuguese traders established a settlement on China’s southern coast. Catholic missionaries followed these merchants to China. They attempted to convert the Chinese to Christianity. Ming China became involved in a pattern of global trade. China exported silk and porcelain to Europe and imported silver as well as new foods such as sweet potatoes and corn.

**ACTING AS AN AMATEUR HISTORIAN**

This manifesto was sent by China’s first Ming Emperor to the Byzantine Emperor.

**Manifesto of Accession as the First Ming Emperor, 1372**

“The [Mongol] dynasty rose from the desert to rule over [China] for more than a hundred years, when Heaven, wearied of their misgovernment, saw fit to turn their fate to ruin. We have established peace in the Empire, and restored the old boundaries of [China]. We were selected by our people to occupy the throne of [China] under the dynastic title of ‘the Great Ming.’ We have sent officers to all foreign kingdoms with this Manifesto except to you [Byzantium], who, being separated from us by the western sea, have not yet received this announcement. Although we are not equal in wisdom to our ancient rulers, whose virtue was recognized all over, we wish to let the world know our intention is to maintain peace within our borders. It is on this ground alone that we have sent you this Manifesto.”
What explanation does the Ming emperor give for the fall of the Mongol Dynasty in China?

This chapter explored several cultures over a long time period. Construct a multi-tier timeline showing how those different cultures related to each other. A multi-tier timeline shows more than one line of events occurring within the same period.

THE QING (MANCHU) DYNASTY (1644-1912)

The Manchus of Northeastern China invaded China in the early 17th century. The Ming Dynasty collapsed after a successful rebellion in 1644. The Manchus defeated the peasant rebels and established the new Qing (pronounced “Ching”) Dynasty — also known by historians as the Manchu Dynasty. China’s new rulers incorporated traditional Chinese culture, kept the civil service examinations, expanded China’s frontiers, and used non-Manchu Chinese in government. The new dynasty lasted more than 250 years. You will learn more about the Qing Dynasty in Chapter 16.

LEARNING WITH GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Complete the graphic organizer about China below. For each dynasty, include its time period and some of its chief characteristics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tang</th>
<th>Song</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yuan</th>
<th>Ming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Ottoman Empire
- Ottoman Turks, ruled by the Sultan, emerged in the 1200s and captured Constantinople in 1453.
- Their empire was located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia.
- They controlled the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe.
- Ottomans also dominated the Mediterranean until they were defeated by Spain.
- Ottomans allowed Christians and Jews some limited self-government.

# Muslim and Mughal India
- Muslims began invading Northwest India in the later 7th century.
- The Muslims established Sultanates in Northwest India.
- Babur founded the Mughal Empire:
  - Akbar the Great conquered Muslim and Hindu states, uniting India under his control.
  - Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal.
- Sikhism. A religion based on belief in one God and in the equality of all human beings.

# Golden Age of China
- Tang Dynasty (618–907).
  - Reunited China and brought peace and prosperity.
  - Reintroduced government examinations.
  - Great advances were made in architecture, sculpture, and painting.
  - Conquered Korea and Manchuria.
- Song Dynasty (960–1279).
  - Introduced compass and paper money.
  - Greatly increased farm production.
  - Population saw an increase in wealth.
  - Introduced the use of gunpowder in war.

# Mongol Empire
- Central Asia saw the rise of nomadic peoples who excelled at horsemanship and fighting skills.
- During 1200, the Mongols of Central Asia established the world’s largest empire.
- Chinggis Khan united Mongols and attacked China; promoted trade in empire.
- Kublai Khan established the Yuan Dynasty in China. Visited by Marco Polo.
- The Ming Dynasty overthrew the Mongols in China and established 300 years of peace; later Ming emperors were involved in trade with Europe.

---

## Checking Your Understanding

**Directions:** Put a circle around the letter that best answers the question.

Use the passage below and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

“As early as in the struggle for the steppe, he had spread the claim that Heaven had destined him as ruler; members of Mongol trading caravans spread stories intended to cause panic among the local populace; those who offered no resistance were promised that their lives and property would be spared; terrible destruction was threatened in the event of resistance; bloody examples were designed to spread fear and reduce the populace’s will to resist....”

— Adopted from Paul Ratchnevsky, *Genghis Khan: His Life and Legacy*
1. According to this historian, which practice greatly contributed to Chinggis Khan’s success?
   A. his nomadic lifestyle
   B. his superior horsemanship
   C. his use of terror
   D. his religious devotion

EXAMINE the question. This question tests your ability to interpret a secondary source. The question contains a description by a historian of some of the tactics used by Chinggis Khan. RECALL what you know. You should recall that the Mongols terrorized their enemies to get them to surrender. APPLY what you know. Choice A and Choice B are true for Chinggis Khan but are not discussed in the passage. Choice D was probably less important to his success, and is also not in the passage. Choice C is the best answer. Chinggis Khan relied heavily on committing acts of terror so that his enemies would greatly fear him and quickly surrender.

Now try answering some additional questions on your own.

Use the map and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

2. Which conclusion about the Grand Canal system in China can be drawn from this map?
   F. Coastal ports dominated the canal system.
   G. Troops could easily be moved west of Luoyang by the canals.
   H. Grain could be shipped between Hangzhou and Beijing by the canal.
   J. The canal system prevented invaders from conquering China.

THE GRAND CANAL SYSTEM OF THE SUI, SONG, AND YUAN DYNASTIES
3. One similarity between the Gupta Empire (320–550 A.D.) in India and the Tang Dynasty (618–907 A.D.) in China was that each —
   A. promoted equality for women
   B. made advances in the arts, sciences, and mathematics
   C. gained overseas colonies
   D. developed representative government

   Use the map and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

   The information in this map shows that in 1280 the Mongols controlled —
   F. areas of Africa, Asia, and Europe
   G. most of Marco Polo’s overland route to China
   H. both Japan and Korea
   J. all of Asia

   The leadership of Chinggis Khan, the use of the stirrup, and excellent horsemanship skills all contributed directly to the —
   A. collapse of Silk Road trade
   B. defeat of the Ottoman Empire
   C. division in the Islamic religion
   D. rise of the Mongol Empire

   Which achievements are associated with the Tang and Song dynasties?
   F. wheel and stirrup
   G. windmill and calendar
   H. gunpowder and the magnetic compass
   J. aqueduct and domed roof
7 One way in which the travels of Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta were similar was that they both resulted in —
A an increased interest in different cultures  
B the development of slavery  
C a reduction in trade  
D the discovery of East Asia

8 What was a major effect of the growth of the Ottoman Empire?
F Persians joined the Sunni branch of Islam.  
G The expansion of Islam in Europe was halted at Tours.  
H The practice of Christianity was banned from the Holy Land.  
J Ottoman ships carried goods to North Africa, the Middle East, and Europe.

9 Which best describes how Christians and Jews were treated under the rule of the Ottoman Empire?
A They were forcibly converted to Islam.  
B They were treated as complete equals by Muslims.  
C They lived in self-governing communities, which paid special taxes.  
D They were expelled to nearby Christian countries in Eastern Europe.

10 Which best describes the interaction of Hindu and Muslim societies in South Asia during the 500 years from 1100 to 1600?
F Periods of conflict alternated with periods of religious toleration and peaceful coexistence.  
G Hinduism was eliminated from most of India.  
H Muslim conquerors adopted Hindu customs and ways.  
J Most Indians converted to Sikhism as a way of combining both Hindu and Muslim beliefs.

11 Which of the following artworks reflects the cultural achievements of Tang China?

A  
B  
C  
D

12 What was one effect of the Mongol Empire on the people who lived in Russia and much of Asia in the late 1200s?
F development of a common Sanskrit language  
G adoption of Confucian ideas and practices  
H expansion of Japanese cultural traditions throughout the empire  
J ability to trade and travel from one end of the empire to the other.
Select two historical turning points you learned about in this unit. Then explain why they were important.

1. 

2. 

Select one of the Essential Questions explored in this unit by checking the box that identifies it. Then answer that question below.

- What were the main characteristics of the Byzantine Empire?
- How was Western Europe affected by the collapse of Rome?
- How did the system of feudalism restore order to Western Europe?
- How did religious beliefs shape life-styles in this period?
- What are the major beliefs of Islam?
- What were the political, economic, and social effects of the spread of Islamic culture?
- What were the major civilizations of Africa in this period?
- What were the major civilizations of Asia in the post-classical era?
- What were the effects of the Mongol invasions?
- What were the achievements of the Ottomans, Mugals, and Ming Chinese?