

HISTORY · CHAPTER 3

Nomadic Empires (The Mongols)

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

A well-prepared student should score 7-8 out of 8 on this chapter's questions. Below 4 usually means the link between the decimal army, the breaking of tribal loyalty and the running of the empire was never understood as one connected system.

TIME TO MASTER

6-8 hrs

HELPLINE

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WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Your child is studying how a NOMADIC people — the Mongols of the Central Asian grasslands — built the largest land empire in history in the thirteenth century. The chapter explains how the herding tribes of the steppe lived and depended on trade with settled farming and city societies; how a man born as TEMUJIN united the quarrelling tribes and was acclaimed CHINGGIS KHAN (the European spelling is 'Genghis') in 1206; how his real genius was ORGANISATION — he reorganised his people into army units of ten, a hundred, a thousand and ten thousand, deliberately mixing the old tribes together so everyone's loyalty was to him and not to their clan; how the Mongols conquered northern China and the Khwarazm empire; and how they then RAN this huge empire with a fast courier system (the yam), a code of law (the Yasa), borrowed scribes, and a policy of safe trade along the Silk Route and tolerance of different religions. It also asks students to think about how our SOURCES (mostly written by the Mongols' enemies) shape the image of Chinggis Khan, which has changed from 'barbaric destroyer' to honoured national founder in modern Mongolia. It usually carries 6-8 marks.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What was Chinggis Khan's birth name, and when did he take the title 'Chinggis Khan'?
- How did he organise his army — and why did mixing up the old tribes matter so much?
- What were the yam and the Yasa?
- Why did nomads and settled (farming/city) societies need each other?
- Was Chinggis Khan only a destroyer? Give one thing the Mongols built or encouraged.

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Thinks 'Genghis Khan' was his birth name (it was a title taken in 1206; his name was Temujin).
- Cannot explain the decimal army or WHY mixing the tribes mattered (to break clan loyalty).
- Sees the Mongols ONLY as destroyers, missing the yam, the Yasa, trade and tolerance.
- Confuses the yam (courier relay) with the Yasa (the law code).

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

If your child cannot explain in their own words HOW Chinggis Khan organised his army (decimal units that broke tribal loyalty) and HOW the empire was administered (yam, Yasa, scribes), they will lose 4-5 marks on the two most common long-answer questions. The fix is a daily 10-minute recall of the 'military story' and the 'administration trio', NOT re-reading the whole chapter.

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