



LESSON 3.3.1 | WATCH | Key Ideas – Factual

Use these questions and prompts at the appropriate stopping points to check in with students and ensure they are getting the key concepts covered in the video.

1. (1:15) What characteristics of key things do nomads, in this case the Mongols, have that differentiate them from settled peoples?

SAMPLE ANSWER: They migrate according to climate conditions so they can feed their flocks; they don't generally produce manufactured goods, which means they need to trade with settled peoples; they generally live in nature and harsh conditions, they tend to be tougher physically than other groups. Additionally, pastoral people tend to be more egalitarian towards women. When there's less to go around, humans tend to share more, and when both men and women must work for the social order to survive, there tends to be less patriarchal domination of women.

2. (2:40) What was Genghis Khan's birth name and around when was he born?

SAMPLE ANSWER: Temujin and around 1162.

3. (3:10) What two innovations does John Green cite as the reasons Temujin won a Mongolian civil war and united Mongol confederations?

SAMPLE ANSWER: Temujin promoted people based on merit, not family position and he brought lower classes of conquered people into his own tribe while dispossessing the leaders of conquered clans. He made peasants love him and the rich hate him.

4. (3:40) How did Mongols chose their leaders?

SAMPLE ANSWER: A prospective ruler would call a general council and anyone who supported their candidacy would show up on horseback and vote with their feet.

5. (5:30) What was one of Genghis Khan's failures as a leader?

SAMPLE ANSWER: His failure to create a single political unit of his conquests. He succeeded based on military skill, not administrative control of his empire.

6. (6:00) What are some characteristics of Khan's army?

SAMPLE ANSWER: His army was built on speed and archery, and were uncommonly adaptable. They were experts at siege



7. (6:55) List John Green's five arguments for Mongol awesomeness.

warfare based on their powers of interrogation. Additionally, they adopted gunpowder and were ship builders.

SAMPLE ANSWER: 1) The Mongols reinvigorated cross-Eurasian trade. The Mongols kept The Silk Road safe, while also profiting by taxing the trade. 2) They increased communication throughout Eurasia by developing a pony express-like system of stations with horses and riders that could quickly relay information. 3) Along with information traveling along these lines of communication, cuisine was exchanged. It was because of the Mongols that rice became a staple of the Persian diet. 4) The Mongols forcibly relocated people who were useful to them, like artists, musicians and administrators. Cognizant of their shortcomings as administrators, they found the people who were good at this and moved them around the empire. 5) The Mongols were almost unprecedentedly tolerant of different religions. While they were shamanists, believing in nature spirits, they didn't expect new people to adopt their faith, nor did they ask them to.

8. (8:30) List John Green's five reasons why the Mongols might not be so great.

SAMPLE ANSWER: 1) Genghis Khan's definition of happiness was, "The greatest happiness is to vanquish your enemies, to chase them before you, to rob them of their wealth, to see those dear to them bathed in tears, to clasp to your bosom their wives and daughters." 2) The Mongols were seriously brutal conquerors. They destroyed entire cities and most historians estimate the numbers they killed to be in the millions. 3) Their empire didn't last. 4) They weren't particularly interested in artistic patronage or architecture. 5) The Mongols are probably responsible for the Black Death. Sure fleas are the real spread of the disease, but it likely wouldn't have spread to Europe without trade routes open and regulated by The Mongols.