

Was
Genghis
Kahn the
greatest
leader of
the
Middle
Ages?

Read your brief overview of Genghis Khan completing your paragraph summary and paragraph titles

Title of paragraph	Story	Summary of paragraph
	<p>Genghis Khan (c. 1158–1162 – August 18, 1227) was the founder and first Great Khan (Emperor) of the Mongol Empire, which became the largest connected empire in history after his death. He came to power by uniting many of the nomadic tribes of Northeast Asia, and, after being proclaimed the universal ruler of the Mongols, or <i>Genghis Khan</i>, he launched the Mongol invasions, which ultimately conquered most of Eurasia, reaching as far west as Poland and as far south as Egypt. His major campaigns include those against the Qara Khitai, Khwarezmia and the Western Xia and Jin dynasties, and his generals conducted further raids into medieval Georgia, the Kievan Rus', and Volga Bulgaria.</p> <p>Genghis Khan and his empire have a fearsome reputation in local histories. Many medieval chroniclers and modern historians describe Genghis Khan's conquests as wholesale destruction on an unprecedented scale, causing a drastic decline of population as a result of mass exterminations and famine. A conservative estimate amounts to about four million civilians (whereas other figures range from forty to sixty million) who died as a consequence of Genghis Khan's military campaigns. In contrast, Buddhist Uyghurs of the kingdom of Qocho, who willingly left the Qara Khitai empire to become Mongol vassals, viewed him as a liberator.</p> <p>Genghis Khan was also portrayed positively by early Renaissance sources out of respect for the great spread of culture, technology and ideas under the Mongol Empire. By the end of the Great Khan's life, the Mongol Empire occupied a substantial portion of Central Asia and China. Due to his exceptional military successes, Genghis Khan is often considered to be one of the greatest conquerors of all time.</p> <p>Beyond his military accomplishments, Genghis Khan also advanced the Mongol Empire in other ways. He decreed the adoption of the Uyghur script as the Mongol Empire's writing system. He also practised meritocracy and encouraged religious tolerance in the Mongol Empire, unifying the nomadic tribes of Northeast Asia. Present-day Mongolians regard him as the founding father of Mongolia. He is also credited with bringing the Silk Road under one cohesive political environment. This brought relatively easy communication and trade between Northeast Asia, Muslim Southwest Asia, and Christian Europe, expanding the cultural horizons of all three areas.</p>	

The Mongal Empire



Eurasia



[illegible]

Kipchaq Khanate

Mongols

Emishi

Japan

Heian Kyo

Nara

A map showing the Jurchen Jin Empire, which is a large territory in the north and east of the Korean peninsula. The empire is bordered by the Korean peninsula to the south and the Sea of Japan to the east. The map also shows the surrounding regions of the Mongol Empire and the Great Khan's territory.

Western Liao Empire
(Qara Khitai)

Western Xia

Tibetan Regimes

Song Empire

Indian Kingdoms

Pugan

★ Thang Long

Ly

Jinglong

Lampbun

for:

The Mongol conquest of the Jin dynasty, also known as the Mongol–Jin War, was fought between the Mongol Empire and the Jin dynasty in Manchuria and north China. The war, which started in 1211, lasted over 23 years and ended with the complete conquest of the Jin dynasty by the Mongols in 1234.



Did you know?

It was forbidden to spill the blood of Noblemen so Genghis Khan came up with all sorts of crazy ways to kill his enemies:

- Pouring Molten Silver into the ears and eyes of his noble enemies
- Placing his enemies under a floor of wood and then danced on top, crushing them
- Suffocation
- Breaking their necks



The Mongol conquests of the 13th century resulted in widespread and well-documented destruction. The Mongol army conquered hundreds of cities and villages and killed millions of people. One estimate is that about 11% of the world's population was killed either during or immediately after the Mongol invasions (around 37.75–60 million people in Eurasia).

If the calculations are accurate, the events would be the deadliest acts of mass killings in human history.



The Mongol
Siege of
Baghdad 1258

The Silk Road



As was common for powerful Mongol men, Genghis Khan had many wives and concubines. These women were often queens or princesses that were taken captive from the territories he conquered or gifted to him by allies, vassals or other tribal acquaintances.

Genghis Khan gave several of his high-status wives their own *ordos* or camps to live in and manage. Each camp also contained junior wives, concubines, and even children. It was the job of the **Kheshig** (Mongol imperial guard) to protect the **yurts** of Genghis Khan's wives. The guards had to pay particular attention to the individual yurt and camp in which Genghis Khan slept, which could change every night as he visited different wives.

When Genghis Khan set out on his military conquests, he usually took one wife with him and left the rest of his wives (and concubines) to manage the empire in his absence.



[HORRIBLE HISTORIES]

What can you learn from this clip... At least 5 facts



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao-lQfj5Qxk>

Read the interpretations of Genghis Khan and answer the following questions:

Interpretation 1:

Genghis Khan is credited with bringing the Silk Road under one cohesive political environment. This allowed increased communication and trade between the West, Middle East and Asia, thus expanding the horizons of all three cultural areas. Some historians have noted that Genghis Khan instituted certain levels of meritocracy (promotion based on ability) in his rule, was tolerant of religions and explained his policies clearly to all his soldiers. Genghis Khan had a notably positive reputation among some western European authors in the Middle Ages, who knew little concrete information about his empire in Asia. The Italian explorer Marco Polo said that Genghis Khan "was a man of great worth, and of great ability, and valor", while philosopher and inventor Roger Bacon applauded the scientific and philosophical enthusiasm of Genghis Khan's empire, and the famed writer Geoffrey Chaucer wrote: *The noble king was called Genghis Khan, Who in his time was of so great renown, That there was nowhere in no region, So excellent a lord in all things*

Interpretation 2:

The conquests and leadership of Genghis Khan included widespread devastation and mass murder. The targets of campaigns that refused to surrender would often be subject to punishments in the form of enslavement and wholesale slaughter. The second campaign against Western Xia, the final military action led by Genghis Khan, and during which he died, involved an intentional and systematic destruction of Western Xia cities and culture. According to John Man, because of this policy of total obliteration, Western Xia is little known to anyone other than experts in the field because so little record is left of that society. He states that "There is a case to be made that this was the first ever recorded example of attempted genocide. It was certainly very successful ethnocide". Iranian historians from the time of Mongol occupation, describe the Mongol invasions as a catastrophe never before seen. A number of present-day Iranian historians, including Zabih Allah Safa, have likewise viewed the period initiated by Genghis Khan as a uniquely catastrophic era. Steven R. Ward writes that the Mongol violence and devastations in the Iranian Highland "killed up to three-fourths of the population... possibly 10 to 15 million people. Some historians have estimated that Iran's population did not again reach its pre-Mongol levels until the mid-20th century."

What is the view of the interpretation 1 and how do you know?

What is the view of interpretation 2 and how do you know?

Which view do you mostly agree with and why?



Lets go back to your story, that and today's lesson, answer the following questions:

1. What centuries were Genghis Khan building his empire?
12th to 13th Centuries
2. What does Khan mean?
Empire
3. What was Khan's empire known as?
Mongol Empire
4. How many are estimated to have been killed by Genghis Khan?
40 to 60 million
5. Give 3 positive things that could be described as Khan bringing
Culture, Religious Tolerance, Literacy, Technology, Connected the world
6. What major route did Khan control helping his empire flourish?
Silk Road
7. What was the name of the tents that Khan's people sleep in?
Yurts
8. What was the name given to the wives of Genghis Khan?
Concubines

