

The Barbarians: The Mongols Movie Worksheet

Directions: Answer the questions based on the movie. The questions are listed in the order they appear on the film. You do not need to use complete sentences.

1. What two empires set the standard for human civilization at the end of the 12th century? What lies in between these two empires and who fills this land?
2. What role did the Chin empire in China play in the war between the Mongols and Tatars and why did they do this? What famous Mongol is born during this era of warfare?
3. What does Temujin's mother tell him when his father is killed? How long does it take Temujin to unite the Mongols and gain the title of Khan?
4. How did Mongolians win battles when they are almost always outnumbered? What did the Mongols do to the Tatars under Genghis Kahn?
5. Who did Genghis Khan firmly believe to be firmly in control of all battles and everything that happens on earth? How did he see his role in leading the Mongolians?
6. What were the homes that Mongols lived in called? How does this help Mongolian warriors?
7. Who does Genghis Khan attack in 1211 after the Tatars had been subdued? How were the Mongols able to capture walled cities?
8. What was the “yam” system used by the Mongolians? What news did they bring Genghis in 1218 as he was on the verge of taking over China?
9. Where does Genghis chase of rebels lead him in his conquests? What does Genghis realize about trade as he moves this way?
10. What did Sultan Mohammed of the Islamic Empire of Korazim do to the two trade enjoys that Genghis Khan? What did this cause?
11. Why did Genghis Khan divide his forces when he attacks the city of Samarkand? What did the Mongols do to the governor who stole his trade goods when they conquered his city?
12. What trick did the Mongols use to capture the city of Samarkand? How did the Mongols assure that this Persian Empire would never threaten them again?
13. What area did the Mongol Empire stretch from with the conquest of Persia? What did this do to trade and what was the “Pax Mongolica”?
14. What happens to Genghis Khan in 1226? What does this prevent him from doing?
15. Why does no one know where Genghis Khan is buried? What happens to Genghis Khan's kingdom upon his death?

16. What happens to the young Muslim Mongol Timur in Korazim when he tries to steal his neighbor's sheep? What will history eventually know him as?
17. What did Timur do to artisans when he conquered areas? What building in Samarkand is evidence of Timur's megalomania?
18. What does Timur Conquer from 1385 to the mid 1390's? Where does he turn his armies in 1398 and how does this hurt his empire?
19. How did Timur psychologically terrorize his enemies? Who did Timur always spare when he terrorized a city?
20. What empire stood in the way of Timur's idea of a Genghis-sized empire? How does Timur end up winning against this empire and its Sultan in 1402?
21. How did Western Europeans react to the defeat of Sultan Beyazid and why?
22. What nation does Timur attack in 1404 and what happens to him?
23. What did Timur say would happen to anyone who disturbed his tomb? What happened to the Soviet Union on the day they opened Timur's tomb in 1941?
24. What was the Mongol's ultimate legacy? Has the world ever seen another empire as large as the Mongolian Empire?

Short Essay:

The History Channel series The Barbarians documents the various "Barbarian" tribes of Europe and Asia that dominated the Middle Ages. Of all these tribes, none was greater and more devastating than the Mongols under leaders like Genghis Khan and Timur the Lame. While it is easy to dismiss the Mongols as a bunch of ransacking pirates, the truth is more complex: They created an empire that promoted world trade and advanced knowledge. After watching the story of the Mongols in detail, write a short essay of 1-2 paragraphs explaining how the Mongols affected world history.