

EXPANDING AN EMPIRE: PART 2

Purpose

Now that you have explored how the Mongols built and maintained their empire, it's time to reconsider your initial rankings from the beginning of this lesson and reflect on what you've learned.

Process

1. Review your rankings of factors that contribute to expanding and maintaining an empire from the opener activity of this lesson. Now that you have more knowledge, re-rank the same eight factors based on what you have learned. (Reminder: 1=most important and 8=least important.)

Factor	Rank
Unification under a strong, centralized leader	
Excellent horsemanship skills	
Disciplined and mobile military forces	
Relocation of experts (for example: bureaucrats, scholars, artisans) around the empire to increase efficiency	
Promotion of safe trade and travel	
Support of religious tolerance	
Ability to adapt to different climates and geographic regions	
Adoption of technological innovations	

2. Identify one factor that had a significant change in ranking and explain why your thinking changed. What evidence or examples influenced your decision?

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3. Do you now view any factors as more interconnected than you originally thought? Why?

4. Reconsider this lesson's Driving Question: How did the Mongols manage to build and maintain history's largest land-based empire?

Your response should summarize the critical factors that led to their expansion and rule.