



Genghis Khan

Genghis Khan was a Mongol warrior and ruler from the Borjigin tribe. He was born in 1162 to the clan's chieftain under the name Temujin. When he first came into the world, he was holding a blood clot in his hand which, according to Mongol beliefs, meant that he would become a great leader. Temujin went on to confirm these superstitious by uniting the scattered tribes of the Mongol people in Northeast Asia and creating the Mongol Empire, the largest empire the world had ever seen stretching from the Pacific Ocean in the east, all the way to the Caspian Sea in the west.

Despite being the chieftain's son, Temujin's childhood wasn't easy. When he was 9, his father was murdered, and he, along with his mother and brothers, was shunned, forced to live in poverty, away from the rest of the tribe. At 16 he married his first and most important wife, Borte, and eventually began to gather troops, aiming to unite the Mongol tribes under this rule.

Temujin used spies to steal technology from his enemies as well as smoke signals and drums to communicate with his soldiers who were all well-equipped for battle. With the use of these military tactics as well as his notorious brutality, it didn't take long before Temujin was accepted as a leader of the Mongol tribes and given the title of "Genghis Khan," meaning "universal ruler." This title was not political, but spiritual and meant Genghis Khan was sent from God to rule the world.

After united the Mongol tribes, he turned his sights towards China. In 1211 Genghis Khan launched an attack against the Jin Dynasty, and by 1215 he reached and plundered its capital Zhongdu (known today as Beijing). After capturing the capital, he put one of his best generals in charge of further weakening China while he headed west, towards the Khwarizm Dynasty a Turkish empire near the Caspian Sea.

The decimation of the Khwarizm Dynasty in 1221 was followed by a time of relative peace. The vast empire connected Europe and China, which revitalized the Silk Road. Strict laws that governed the Mongol Empire ensured safety the travelers, and the Mongol tolerance of different religious groups meant that people from all corners of the world could move about the empire and trade freely.

Genghis Khan died in 1227, after which, the empire was divided among the four sons he had with Borte. His descendants continued to wage war and expand the empire, but, some 80 years later, their ruler started to crumble, and the Mongols slowly assimilated with the surrounding peoples.

Even though the Mongol Empire disappeared, in a way Genghis Khan's legacy continues to exist to this day. Grand statues and busts bearing his face are scattered around modern day Mongolia in honor of its founder, but that's not all. A study from 2003 showed that today there are around 16 million people in the world who are direct descendants of Genghis Khan!

Vocab Match

Name: _____

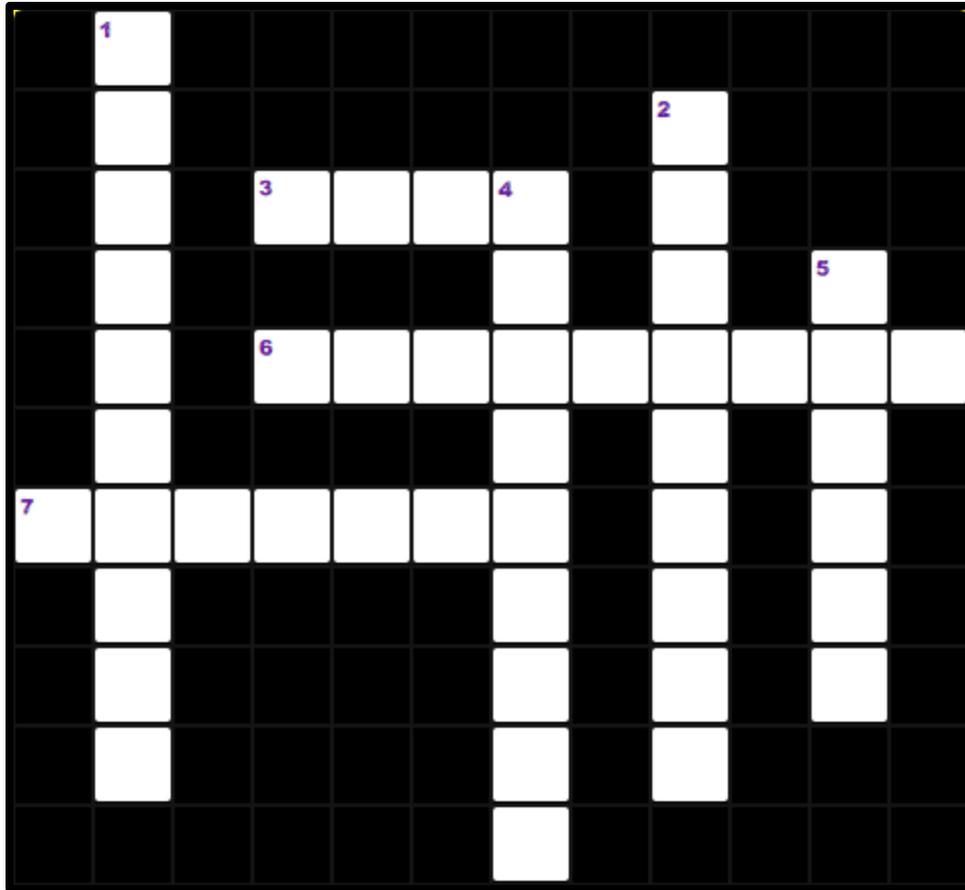
Word	Answer	Definition
1. chieftain	1. ____	a. adjective- famous for bad quality
2. scattered	2. ____	b. noun- killing and destruction of a large area of people
3. shun	3. ____	c. verb- to steal during war
4. notorious	4. ____	d. adjective- irregularly distributed
5. plunder	5. ____	e. verb- to blend in or be absorbed
6. decimation	6. ____	f. noun- the leader of a clan
7. revitalize	7. ____	g. verb- to reject and avoid
8. assimilate	8. ____	h. noun- something an ancestor has left for future generations
9. legacy	9. ____	i. verb- to give new life to something
10. bust	10. ____	j. noun- a sculpture of a person's head, shoulders and chest

Discussion Topics

1. What are some strange traditions / beliefs you know of?
2. What is the earliest memory you have?
3. Name one negative trait of yours that you would like to change.
4. What would you like to have achieved in 10 years?
5. Is there a person, alive or dead, whom you admire? Why?

Name: _____

Genghis Khan



Hint!

ACROSS

- 3 verb- to reject and avoid
- 6 adjective- irregularly distributed
- 7 verb- to steal during war

DOWN

- 1 verb- to blend in or be absorbed
- 2 noun- the leader of a clan
- 4 adjective- famous for some bad quality
- 5 noun- something an ancestor has left for future generations

Name: _____

Quiz

1) What was Genghis Khan's real name?

a. Jin b. Temurin c. Temujin d. Jinghi

2) What was Genghis Khan holding in his hand when he was born?

a. a pearl b. a blood clot c. a toy d. a bloody cloth

3) What was the eastern border of the Mongol Empire during Genghis Khan's rule?

a. Japan b. the Pacific Ocean c. the Caspian Sea d. Beijing

4) How old was Genghis Khan when he first married?

a. 9 b. 18 c. 26 d. 16

5) According to the text, what does "Genghis Khan" mean?

a. universal ruler b. universal studios c. the great wise one d. ruler of all tribes

6) Zhongdu, the capital of the Jin Dynasty is which modern city?

a. Hong Kong b. Shanghai c. Beijing d. Hangzhou

7) What happened to trade when the Mongols gained control of the Silk Road?

a. it increased b. nothing happened c. it got worse d. it stopped completely

8) Which religion was forbidden in the Mongol Empire?

a. Christianity b. Buddhism c. Hinduism d. none

9) How many sons did Genghis Khan have with Borte?

a. 7 b. 4 c. 2 d. 5

10) According to the 2003 study, how many living descendants does Genghis Khan have today?

a. 16 million b. 10 thousand c. 500 d. 6 million

Key

Matching	Quiz
1. f	1. c
2. d	2. b
3. g	3. b
4. a	4. d
5. c	5. a
6. b	6. c
7. i	7. a
8. e	8. d
9. h	9. b
10. j	10. a

PROJECT: Option 1. Students write a 1 year, 5 year and 10 year plan for their lives using SMART goal techniques. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time). Plan should include images and specific details. Option 2. Students research the military tools, techniques and maps of the Mongols and present their findings.

Article written by: Jelena Kalaba

Source: <https://www.biography.com/people/genghis-khan-9308634>,

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2018/06/09/genghis-khan/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szxPar0BcMo>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Mongolia/The-rise-of-Genghis-Khan>