

## Crash Course on the Mongols Questions:

### 1. What were the failures? successes? of the Mongols?

One of the failures of the Mongols was when Genghis Khan failed to forge a single governmental entity out of his conquests, which was unfortunate for the Mongols because those guys weren't always the best at cooperating. The Yuan Dynasty in China, the Ilkhanate in Persia, and the Chagatai Khanate in Central Asia were the last significant empires the Mongols left following Genghis Khan's death. Now onto their successes, the military power of the Mongols was largely responsible for their success. The foundation of Genghis Khan's army, which was never larger than 130,000 men, was speed and archery. In comparison to the foot soldiers and knights they faced, Mongol mounted archers were like extremely quick tanks. They were also known to be very adaptable and even before they got the chance to raid, they interrogated detainees and learned the art of siege warfare. Additionally, they embraced gunpowder and presumably introduced it to the Europeans. They even constructed ships to attack Japan.

### 2. What is one thing you found interesting/new about the Mongols?

Something that I found interesting about the Mongols was how they could have possibly been connected somehow to the spread of the black death/plague by facilitating trade, they also made it easier for diseases to spread. For example, when the plague spread through fleas, these fleas contaminated the city of Caffa in the Crimea by hurling their plague-infested corpses over the city's walls.