Mongols in World History WebQuest and Socratic Seminar

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/index.html

In this webquest, you will work on your assigned topic to uncover key and vital information on the Mongols, working ultimately towards a greater understanding of their overall impact on world history and your understanding of their level of “civilization”. Despite recent reinterpretations of their place in world history, the Mongols don’t quite fit the model of “civilization” we’ve seen in other classical and post classical civilizations.

When we come to class later in the week, we will hold a Socratic seminar, attempting to address the following question: **What sort of a place in world history do the Mongols truly deserve?** Our seminar will help us, hopefully, to come to a greater consensus on the question and their level of “civilization”.

For entrance into the seminar on either Wednesday OR Thursday, you must do the following prior to class:

- Complete reading and ID/Review Questions for chapter 15 and submit to turnitin.com
- Browse through the Mongols Mark on History section of the website to get general background info how the Mongols have been perceived in history: [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/history/history.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/history/history.htm)
  - Jot down a half page or so of notes to show your close reading of this section and its subsection that help answer the question, *How have the Mongols been reinterpreted based on their contributions to world history?*
- Read through your assigned section of Mongols Mark on World History and take notes to bring to class
  - For instance, you might be a number “4”, so you would read the Pastoral Nomadic Life section of the web.
  - Take notes for that section.
    - For number 4, the section question you’re addressing is this: *What are the key elements in the Mongols’ pastoral-nomadic way of life that defined them and contributed to their rise?*
    - Your goal is to take at least a half to a full page of notes on your assigned section.
      - Choose details that you think will be helpful for the group in answering the larger question of Mongols’ proper place in world history.

1. The Mongols Conquests
   - What led to the conquests, and why were they so successful?
2. The Mongols in China
   - What was the Mongols’ influence on China’s Yuan dynasty?
3. Key Figures in Mongol History
   - Assess the role of these four important figures key in the development of the Mongol Empire.
4. The Pastoral Nomadic Life
   - What are the key elements in the Mongols’ pastoral-nomadic way of life that defined them and contributed to their rise?

THE MONGOLS’ MARK ON GLOBAL HISTORY (everybody reads through this … this is the first bullet point in the list above)

*How have the Mongols been reinterpreted based on their contributions to world history?*
[http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/history/history.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/history/history.htm)

- The Barbarian Stereotype
- Support for Foreign Contact and Exchange
- A New Look at Mongol Contributions
- Missionaries from Rome: Bridging East and West
- Mongols Support Trade, Facilitating East-West Contacts
- The Status of Merchants Improved under Mongol Rule
- Merchants Associations Alleviate the Perils of Caravan Trade
- Pax Mongolica: The Mongolian Peace
- Mongol Support of Artisans
- Artistic and Cultural Exchange under Mongol Rule
- The Status of Artisans under Mongol Rule
- A Tactic of Religious Tolerance
- The Mongols and Islam
1. THE MONGOL CONQUESTS

What led to the conquests, and why were they so successful?
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/conquests/conquests.htm

- Tribal Groups vs. Mongol Identity under Chinggis Khan
- Chinggis’s Mastery of Organization and Military Tactics
- Three Invasions Led by Chinggis
- Chinggis’s Successor and Further Expansion of the Empire
- How a Small Group of Mongols Conquered Such a Vast Domain
- The Collapse of the Empire

2. THE MONGOLS IN CHINA

What was the Mongols’ influence on China’s Yuan dynasty?
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/china/china.htm

- Khubilai Khan in China
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: For Peasants
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: For Artisans
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: For Merchants
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: Legal Codes
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: Civilian Life
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: Religion
- Life in China under Mongol Rule: Culture
- Beginnings of Mongol Collapse: Military Successes and Failures
- Beginnings of Mongol Collapse: Public Works Failures

3. KEY FIGURES IN MONGOL HISTORY

Assess the role of these four important figures key in the development of the Mongol Empire.
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/figures/figures.htm

- Mongol Unity under Chinggis Khan
  - Chinggis Khan’s Four Great Legacies
  - The Death of Chinggis Khan
  - The Myth of Chinggis Khan
- Khubilai Khan (1215-1294)
- Ögödei (1185-1241)
- Marco Polo (1254-1324)

4. THE PASTORAL-NOMADIC LIFE

What are the key elements in the Mongols’ pastoral-nomadic way of life that defined them and contributed to their rise?
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/pastoral/pastoral.htm

- Sheep: A Source of Bounty
- Goats
- Survival of the Flocks
- Yaks and Oxen
- Camels
- Horses
- Mare’s Milk
- Traditional Clothing and Jewelry
- The Portable home: The Ger (Yurt)