| History sample unit | Mongol Expansion (c. AD 1206 – c. 1368)  
(Depth Study 6: Expanding Contacts) | Stage 4 | Duration: 5–6 weeks  
Detail: 15 hours/18 lessons |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The overview may be programmed separately or integrated, where relevant, within this unit of work</td>
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<tr>
<th>Key inquiry questions</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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<td>• How did societies change from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern age?</td>
<td>• Comprehension: chronology, terms and concepts</td>
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<td>• What key beliefs and values emerged and how did they influence societies?</td>
<td>• Analysis and use of sources</td>
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<td>• What were the causes and effects of contact between societies in this period?</td>
<td>• Perspectives and interpretations</td>
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<td>• Which significant people, groups and ideas from this period have influenced the world today?</td>
<td>• Empathetic understanding</td>
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<td>• Skills</td>
<td>• Research</td>
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<td>• Explanation and communication</td>
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<th>Outcomes</th>
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| A student:  
› describes major periods of historical time and sequences events, people and societies from the past HT4-2  
› describes and assesses the motives and actions of past individuals and groups in the context of past societies HT4-3  
› describes and explains the causes and effects of events and developments of past societies over time HT4-4  
› uses evidence from sources to support historical narratives and explanations HT4-6  
› identifies and describes different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past HT4-7  
› selects and uses appropriate oral, written, visual and digital forms to communicate about the past HT4-10  
Related Life Skills outcomes: HTLS-2, HTLS-3, HTLS-4, HTLS-5, HTLS-6, HTLS-8, HTLS-9, HTLS-13 | The following historical concepts are integrated into the lesson sequences:  
**Continuity and change**: changes and continuities during the period of Mongol expansion  
**Cause and effect**: causes of Mongol expansion and resulting effects  
**Perspectives**: different points of view about the Mongol expansion held by people from the past and today  
**Empathetic understanding**: why people during the period of Mongol expansion lived and thought as they did  
**Significance**: the significance/importance of Mongol expansion |
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<th>Content</th>
<th>Teaching, learning and assessment</th>
<th>Adjustments and/or extensions</th>
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| The nomadic lifestyle of the Mongols and the rise of Temujin (Genghis Khan) (ACDSEH014) | • Students construct individual mindmaps to pre-test knowledge on nomads and nomadic lifestyles.  
  • Introduce the issue of climate and the interrelationship of environments and their peoples through class questioning and discussion.  
  • Students predict what the lifestyle would be like in the nomadic Mongol society, noting five predictions to be verified at the end of the unit.  
  • Locate Mongolia on a map and illustrate the main geographic features: [www.nationalgeographic.com/weepingcamel/landofsteppeandsky.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/weepingcamel/landofsteppeandsky.html)  
  [www.discovermongolia.mn/country/Natural_zone.html](http://www.discovermongolia.mn/country/Natural_zone.html).  
  • Through a variety of sources, students note in point form the main features of Mongolian nomadic life. What effect would this nomadic lifestyle have on the political and economic development of Mongol society?  
  • Students observe the range of artefacts from the Royal Alberta Museum through [www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/vexhibit/genghis/intro.htm](http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca/vexhibit/genghis/intro.htm) or teachers download images. Describe each object, suggest its function and explain what it might tell you about Mongol society. As a class, discuss which artefacts students did not expect would come from a nomadic society and explain why.  
  • Students form into groups. Each group assumes the role of a patriarchal family or extended family group living in the 1200–1300s, consisting of a father, mother, young children and extended members of the family. The teacher prompts discussion about the lack of technology and the physical nature of their life in order to survive. How would each group organise their lives?  
  • Using [www.travel-silkroad.com/english/dongfanwenming/history/sczlqs/Khwarem.htm](http://www.travel-silkroad.com/english/dongfanwenming/history/sczlqs/Khwarem.htm) and other sources, investigate the nature and strength of the clan system in Mongol society. Who held power within the Mongolian society?  
  • Using a range of sources, investigate the influence of the medieval Mongol economy on their society and later their empire. Create a flowchart showing the exchange and distribution of goods.  
  • A useful guide to lesson ideas can be found at [http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landcape4.php](http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landcape4.php).  | Students complete a matching activity using five key terms and definitions. |
• describe the life and impact of Temujin (Genghis Khan) on Asia and the Middle East

The organisation of the Mongol army under Genghis Khan and the treatment of conquered peoples, such as the codification of laws and exemption of teachers, lawyers and artists from taxes (ACDSEH077)

Students:
• outline the organisation of Genghis Khan’s Mongol army
• describe the Mongol policies used in governing their empire, including laws and taxes
• using a range of sources, describe how the Mongols treated conquered peoples

The extent of the Mongol expansion as one of the largest land empires in history, including life in China before, during and after the Mongol conquest (ACDSEH078)

Students:
• locate the extent of the Mongol conquests and expansion across Asia and Europe
• describe the impact of Mongol rule on the Chinese social structure
• explain the cultural and religious consequences of Mongol rule in China

• Students create a timeline for the life of Temujin (Genghis Khan). After watching the following film clip or participating in other research, students write an obituary for Genghis Khan, stressing his impact on world history. (Perhaps show clips from the feature film Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan (2007) or the MP3 from the BBC History Radio 4 In Our Time episode ‘Genghis Khan’ (first broadcast 1 February 2007) at [www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ioth/all](http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ioth/all).)
• Present students with a selected range of sources/readings (or the sites below) and draw up an organisational chart for the divisions of the Mongol army, with groups of ‘ten’, ‘one hundred’ and ‘ten thousand’:
  - [http://history-world.org/mongol_empire.htm](http://history-world.org/mongol_empire.htm)
  - [http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php](http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php)
• Students summarise points on the organisation of the Mongol army under the headings ‘cavalry’, ‘weapons’, ‘army discipline and loyalty’ and ‘military intelligence’.
• Conclude the activity with a table of strengths and weaknesses of the army.
• Draw two different types of Mongol soldiers, noting features such as weapons.
• Provide sources including the Yasa (laws/rules) of Genghis Khan.
• List types of taxation imposed by the Mongols on their own people and those they conquered. The class investigates how the Mongols treated conquered peoples overall.
  - [http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/china/china3_a.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/china/china3_a.htm)
• Engage in map work activity. Use the animated expanding maps of the Mongol empire provided at
  - [http://elibrary.sd71.bc.ca/subject_resources-socials/mogolempire.htm](http://elibrary.sd71.bc.ca/subject_resources-socials/mogolempire.htm)
  noting the expansion of the Mongol Empire by watching the stages of its growth.
  Create a timeline of its expansion.
  - [http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php](http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php)
• Mark on a map found at
  - [http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php](http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_landscape4.php)
  the names of the regions attacked and/or conquered by the Mongols.
• Class suggests reasons why countries were invaded and the method involved.
• The teacher provides an overview of the impact of Mongol rule on China, using a range of sources, including visual images. Students research the life of one of the following, explaining in a diary account their perspective of the Mongol invasion (see notes on Empathy History support materials). Possible characters: a Chinese woman, peasant, a Mongol soldier, a Chinese official, etc. Students

**Extension:** Students work in pairs and initiate a discussion based on whether Genghis Khan was civilised or a barbarian. Include annotated bibliography.

| **Extension:** In what ways did the laws of the Mongols benefit their empire? |
• explain how and why life in China changed under Mongol rule

The consequences of the Mongol expansion, including contributions to European knowledge and trade routes (ACDSEH079)

Students:

• using a range of sources describe and assess the significance of Mongol expansion, including contributions to European knowledge and the increase in commerce with Asia and Europe

• assess the reign and contributions of Kublai Khan to the Chinese empire and the wider world

make a statement in class representing their character, clearly stating their attitude to the Mongols. Discuss the varying perspectives and explain why they vary. The following links may be helpful:
http://history-world.org/mongol_empire.htm
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/
http://worldhistoryforusall.sdsu.edu/units/five/landscape/Era05_ landscape4.php.

• Form the class into groups. The class may need specific sources provided by the teacher. Each group is given one of the following four topic areas:

  **Group 1:** What groups governed Chinese society prior to the Mongol invasion? Include areas where China was flourishing (cause and effect), politically, economically, socially and environmentally.

  **Group 2:** How and why did the Mongols invade China? Include the geography of Mongol conquests up to this point, who led the army and how the conquest took place.

  **Group 3:** What changes took place as a result of Mongol invasion? Think about the effect on the Mongols as well as the Chinese. Consider effects on trade, religion, laws and taxes.

  **Group 4:** How long did Mongol occupation last in China? What were some of the changes over time? Why did these changes take place? Who was responsible for the changes?

• Each group is to present their findings to the class in summary form.

• Students are given a note-taking scaffold to complete as they listen to other group presentations of life in China before, during and after the Mongol conquest.

• Teacher exposition explains the causes and effects of the break-up of the empire. The class discusses the significance of the causes and places them in order of importance.

• Define the term *Pax Mongolica* and assess the significance of Mongol expansion:
  www.silk-road.com/artl/paxmongolica.shtml

• **Empathy task:** Students create a dialogue between conquerors and the conquered, Mongols and foreigners. They work in pairs and create a dialogue between two characters who have had different experiences of the Mongol expansion. The characters can be fictional but their experiences must reflect actual historical circumstances. Possible pairs of characters can be suggested, eg a child from a family that was forced by the Mongols to leave her home and a young Mongol prince; a Mongol shaman and a Buddhist priest; Genghis Khan and a conquered ruler; Kublai Khan and Marco Polo; a Mongol general and a gatekeeper on the Great Wall of China. Dialogues may be presented as a live performance, script, audiotape, videotape, cartoon or storyboard, exchange

Why did the Mongols tax their own people?

To what extent are the sources about the Mongols written and/or illustrated by foreign peoples accurate, useful and reliable? What advice would you give an historian about using such sources?

Extension: Explore the role of women in the Mongol empire, particularly Kublai Khan’s mother, wife and niece. Use an annotated family tree graphically organise their impact on Kublai Khan.
of letters.

- After researching the reign and contributions of Kublai Khan, students create an epitaph on a Chinese memorial to him, outlining his contributions in five main points. The class discusses his contributions and votes on the most significant contribution.
- As a conclusion, students re-examine their five predictions of what life was like in nomadic Mongolian society. Which predictions were correct? Why were some predictions incorrect? Can the class explain why they made these earlier assumptions?

Assess the long-term legacy of Genghis Khan

Extension: Why do you think the Mongolian legacy was able to last for so long? How was this different from that of other cultures? Create a game about leadership styles.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/4481195.stm
Resources

Books

Websites
http://wn.com/Mongol_invasion#/videos
www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/khan1/hd_khan1.htm
www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/yuan/hd_yuan.htm
www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2010/khubilai%20khan
http://history-world.org/mongol_empire.htm
www.archaeology.org/0301/etc/kamikaze.html
www.archaeology.org/0301/etc/wrath.html
www.chinaculture.org/chineseway/2012-07/31/content_437564.htm
http://elibrary.sd71.bc.ca/subject_resources/socials/mogolempire.htm
www.lacma.org/khan/map.htm
http://news.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_4480000/newsid_4482100/4482155.stm?bw=nb&mp=wm#
http://elibrary.sd71.bc.ca/subject_resources/socials/mogolempire.htm#geography
www.allempires.com/article/index.php?q=The_Mongol_Empire
www.nationalgeographic.com/genghis/timeline/index.html
http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/
www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Kublai_Khan.aspx#1