**Rise of the Mongols Lecture Notes**

**Directions:** While Ms. Babbitt is giving the lecture, you should be following along, making QUALITY annotations, including underlining AND marginal notes!

Slide Two: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Mongols would join the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ peoples of the inner Eurasian steppes with the settled agricultural civilizations of outer Eurasia more extensively and more intimately than ever before. It also brought the major civilizations of Eurasia—Europe, China, and the Islamic world—into far more direct contact than in earlier times.

-Both the enormous destructiveness of the process and the networks of exchange and communication that it created were the work of the Mongols, numbering only about 700,000 people.

Slide Three: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thesis:** The Mongols were able to conquer most of Eurasia due to its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ location in the grassy steppes of Central Asia, Ghengis Khan’s ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the nomadic tribes and a vastly superior military.

Slide Four: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-First and foremost, the Mongols had the great advantage of the Geographic location. The Mongols came from the Grassy steppes of Central Asia. The steppes of Eurasia form "the largest unified area of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the world," an area too dry for farming without irrigation. Such geography created unique conditions that shaped Mongol history.

-Without farming, the Mongols had to rely heavily on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they kept. Their herds lived on native grasses, and these nomads would need to move their home from place to place so they would not over graze.

Slide Five: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-Their traditional type of dwelling, practically unchanged from the time of Chinggis Khan, is called a *ger* but is also known by the Russian word *yurt*.

-The Mongols also had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ advantages over their enemies: Because they lived on the high plains of Mongolia, their bodies would have more red blood cells to transport an equal amount of oxygen. When they moved to the lower levels of Asia and Europe, this meant that their endurance and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ would be increased – this is the same trick track and field athletes use today when they have their training camps in high elevations like Mexico City or Denver for several months; it is called “blood doping”.

-This was an essential survival skill in the steppes, because in most areas, there were no roads. It is said the Mongols learned how to ride even before they learned how to walk – when they were 2 years old

Slide Six: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-The Geography alone was not enough for the Mongols to dominate Eurasia they need a great leader such as Genghis Khan to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them. World historians focus attention on large-scale and long-term processes of change in explaining “what happened in history,” but to understand the rise of the Mongol Empire, most scholars are forced to look closely at the role of one individual—Ghengis Khan. Khan is translated into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ruler.

-The twelfth-century world he was born into saw the Mongols as an unstable and fractious collection of tribes and clans. At age 44 Genghis Khan succeeds in the remarkable achievement of uniting the clans a feat that wasn’t noticed beyond the highland steppes of Mongolia. That would soon change.

Slide Seven: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-The unification of the Mongol tribes raised an obvious question: What was Genghis Khan to do with the large and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ army he had assembled?

-Without a common task, the new (and fragile) unity of the Mongols would dissolve into quarrels and chaos; and without external resources to reward his followers, he would be hard pressed to maintain his supreme position. Both issues pointed in a single direction—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, particularly towards China, long a source of great wealth for nomadic peoples.

- In 1209, the first major attack on the settled agricultural societies south of Mongolia set in motion a half century of a Mongol world war, a series of military campaigns, massive killing, and empire building without precedent in world history.

Slide Eight: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-In the process, Genghis, followed by his sons and grandsons created an empire that contained China, Korea, Central Asia, Russia, much of the Islamic Middle East, and parts of Eastern Europe.

-How did a Mongol confederation, with a total population of less than 1 million people and few resources beyond their livestock, create an imperial structure of such staggering transcontinental dimensions? According to one historian, “Mongol armies were simply better led, organized, and disciplined than those of their opponents.”

-The Mongol army consisted of professional warriors**:** no peasants, all warriors: 10,000 Mongols = 10,000 fighters, as compared to the European army: 500 knights and 9500 peasants. All warriors were on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cavalry).

-Average speed for the whole army: 60 miles per day (4 to 5 times faster than any European army). Each warrior had four or more horses and rode them in turns.

Slide Nine: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-Light cavalry would storm forward and shower the enemy with arrows to harass and disorganize them, Followed by two rows of heavy cavalry in armor with lances and swords. Dummies, women and slaves were put on the spare horses, so that the strength of the Mongol army would appear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Their favorite tactic was the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ retreat*: After this tactic became known to their enemies, they just retreated longer, sometimes for days. For example, at the Battle of Kalka River they retreated for 9 days until the Russians were spread out so far, they could be cut down one by one very easily.

-The Mongols were not initially good at siege warfare – until they captured Chinese \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who taught them how to do it (some 1,000 Chinese artillery crews took part in the Mongol invasion of Persia).

Slide Ten: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-They used \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and cruelty as weapon, sometimes winning battles and sieges by reputation alone. Before the citizens were slaughtered (by impaling and flaying), they were forced to watch how the Mongols raped all young women, including nuns. The Mongols assessed the extent of their victories by cutting off an ear from each dead enemy.

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ civilians were used as human shields for attacks on the next city or were used as human fill in the moats surrounding those cities.

Slide Eleven: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-Baghdad was looted for seven days during which the Caliph starved to death amongst his riches. They then slaughtered about 800,000 people in Baghdad.

-After that, Damascus surrendered immediately when the first Mongol patrol was in sight of the city. Several modern scholars believe they can explain Mongol savagery…

“Extremely conscious of their small numbers and fearful of rebellion, Genghis often chose to annihilate a region’s entire population if it appeared too troublesome to govern.”

Historians have gathered countless other Empires using similar Fear tactics throughout History. However, the Mongol reputation for savagery still exists to this day.