

## AP World Court of History: The Trial of Chinggis Khan

**Directions:** Every person in class will participate in the trial (see roles below). **If you are absent the day of the trial, you will complete a five paragraph essay supporting or refuting the charges.**

**Case Briefing:** Chinggis Khan founded the Mongol Empire, the largest contiguous land empire in world history. But was he a great ruler, or a destructive criminal? You will decide this issue as Chinggis Khan goes on trial before "The Court of History"!

**The Indictment:** Chinggis Khan and his descendants committed crimes against humanity as conquerors and rulers in the 13th and 14th centuries, including the:

- A. Use of Psychological Warfare
- B. Murder of Innocent Civilians
- C. Destruction of Major Urban Centers & Political Structures
- D. Spread of the Black Plague

### Roles

#### **Defendant (1)**

**Chinggis Khan:** Will testify at the trial. Will complete a role biography. Will compile a daily written journal of the proceedings.

**Prosecution attorneys (2):** "Team captains" of the prosecution. Will try to convince jurors that the evidence supports the indictment. Will study the evidence and organize the case. Each prosecutor will be responsible for proving 2 of the charges.

**Defense attorneys (2):** "Team captains" of the defense. Will try to convince jurors that the evidence does not support the indictment. Will study the evidence and organize the case. Each defender will be responsible for defending 2 of the charges.

***(On the first day of the trial, both teams must give copies of their direct examination questions to the judge/teacher)***

#### **Witnesses (20)**

Will testify at the trial. Will complete a role biography. Will compile a daily written journal of the proceedings.

<b>Witnesses for the Defense:</b> Kublai Khan Mongol woman Mongol warrior Persian Historian Juvaini OR Rashid al-Din Marco Polo Prince of Moscow Silk Road merchant Mongol Government Official William of Rubrick Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, Persian philosopher/scientist/mathematician	<b>Witnesses for the Prosecution:</b> Chinese Confucian scholar Mustasim, caliph of Baghdad A Mongol Prisoner of war Pope Innocent IV Qutuz, Mamluk sultan of Egypt Russian peasant Muhammad II, sultan of Khwarazm Balkh shopkeeper Mstislav III, prince of Kiev Historian Ibn al-Athir
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## Procedures

### Trial

- The judge reads the indictment. The defendant enters his plea.
- Prosecution and Defense make opening statements (2 minutes each side)
- Prosecution calls witnesses and has 3 minutes of Direct Examination (inc. defendant)
- Defense has 2 minutes of Cross-Examination
- Defense calls witnesses and has 3 minutes of Direct Examination (inc. defendant)
- Prosecution has 2 minutes of Cross-Examination
- Closing statements for Prosecution and Defense (2 minutes each side)
- Jury (Your Teacher) Deliberation and Judge Verdict
- Reflection Discussion & Debrief (15 minutes)

### Attorney

- Remember that you are "team captains." Work with all witnesses on your team to make sure that communication is clear and that the testimony is coordinated.
- Prepare opening or closing statement for your side. Opening/closing statements should be clear and concise. On the first day of the trial, give the judge two copies of your direct examination questions. The judge will keep one copy and give one copy to the opposing side.
- On the day of the trial, all students will be prepared to act out their role.
- Do not exceed time limits.
- Call and cross-examine witnesses.
- Meet to plan strategy, fairly divide up responsibilities, prepare questions for each witness
- Work with witnesses in preparing questions. Remember that there are limits on how many questions may be asked during direct examination and cross-examination. These limits will be enforced by the judge.
- Assist team with preparation of three questions for each witness you intend to call
- Assist team with preparation of three cross-examination questions for each opposition witness
- **To be turned in:** *written copy of your opening/closing statement, Questions for witnesses. Point of View Sheet.*

### Witness

- Research your role from the textbook, as well as primary & secondary sources and understand how you fit into the larger picture of the trial
- Anticipate two questions each side may ask you
- Work closely with your attorneys. Exchange personal contact information and be available for necessary conferences with teammates prior to the trial.
- Write a witness sheet that clearly identifies your character and his/her connection to Chinggis Khan and/or his descendants. The witness sheet should contain the testimony you plan to deliver at the trial.
- When on the witness stand, make sure you are audible—if you tend to be soft-spoken, this is one time you need to speak louder! Maintain eye contact with the attorneys and jury.
- Answer questions accurately and directly.
- On the first day of the trial, bring three copies of your witness sheet: one for yourself, one for your attorneys, and one for the judge.
- Track the points of view presented by witnesses
- **To be turned in:** *Role Biography, Anticipated Questions and Answers. Point of view sheet.*

### **Some Advice for "The Court of History"**

- Bring all necessary papers with you to the courtroom. On the days of the trial, you will not be allowed to print documents from the computer in the courtroom.
- The judge will carefully monitor the proceedings for historical accuracy. If an attorney or witness makes an honest but important mistake, the judge will correct it swiftly and diplomatically. Minor errors will remain uncorrected. Therefore, objections from the attorneys will be unnecessary.
- If you have any questions, please ask your teacher, either in school or via email.

### **Debrief Questions**

#### **Attorneys:**

- Which one of your witnesses presented the most convincing evidence supporting your side of the case? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which one of the opposing witnesses presented the most convincing evidence supporting the other side of the case? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which aspects of the simulation were the most helpful to you? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which aspects of the simulation could be improved or changed? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which two witnesses on the other side of the case presented the most convincing evidence? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- In your own opinion (as a twenty-first century student), were Chinggis Khan and his descendants uncivilized conquerors and rulers in the 13th and 14th centuries? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.

#### **Witnesses and Defendant:**

- Which one of the prosecution witnesses presented the most convincing evidence supporting that side of the case? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which one of the defense witnesses presented the most convincing evidence supporting that side of the case? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which aspects of the simulation were the most valuable? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- Which aspects of the simulation could be improved or changed? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.
- In your own opinion (as a twenty-first century student), were Chinggis Khan and his descendants uncivilized conquerors and rulers in the 13th and 14th centuries? Discuss specific reasons for your opinion.

**Assessment:** The Trial of Chinggis Khan counts as a 100-point grade.

Points earned are based on:

- Performance of the role in the trial based on the rubric. Including costumes and character personality
- The quality of the attorney claims & questions/witness sheet/point of view sheet
- Participation in the reflection discussion
- Works Cited Page and In-Text Citations (See you teacher for instructions.)

**Witness Role Biography (Please write your ORGANIZED answers on your own paper.)**

**Role:** \_\_\_\_\_

As a witness, you must research your role and be able to answer any questions that the attorneys ask you. Before the trial, complete your role biography below. This will be turned in on the day of the trial (you will be able to use these notes during your testimony). In addition, anticipate two questions that each side may ask you, and prepare your responses.

**Briefly describe the significance of your role. (In other words, why were you invited to testify?)**

**What was your life like during the time of the Mongol Empire?**

**Where are you from? What social class are you a part of? What things are important to you?**

**How did you interact with the Mongols? If you did not directly encounter the Mongols, did you hear of them?**

**How did your role's life change because of the Mongols? Was it positive or negative, and why?**

**Do you feel the Mongols were civilized or uncivilized?**

**Prosecution Questions**

Predict two questions the prosecution may ask you, and prepare your responses.

**Defense Questions**

Predict two questions the defense may ask you, and prepare your responses.

**Attorney Responsibilities (Please write your ORGANIZED answers on your own paper.)**

As an attorney you are working as a team, you must take rotate speaking order. You are responsible for creating both an opening statement and a closing statement, you must also generate a list of questions to ask your witnesses and a list of possible questions to ask your opponent's witnesses. See the attached witness list and use the graph below to plan your questions. You will also be responsible for completing the POV worksheet.

<b>Claim</b>	<b>How it will help your side</b>
<b>Claim 1:</b>	
<b>Claim 2:</b>	
<b>Claim 3:</b>	

<b>Witness List</b>	<b>Questions to Ask</b>

**Point of View Sheet (Witnesses Only) (Please write your ORGANIZED answers on your own paper.)**

Record the testimony of each witness, highlighting their point of view. This sheet will be submitted at the end of the trial.

Witness	Point of View/Testimony Given	Facts & Details Provided

**Did any witnesses contradict each other? If so, which ones? How could that happen?**

**Which witnesses did you think had the most convincing testimony? Why?**

**Based on the quality of the arguments presented in the trial, what would your personal verdict be for this case on each count? Provide an evidence backed explanation for each decision.**