**Mongols and Asia Vocab**

1. Mongols: Nomadic peoples living in northern Eurasia that came to create a giant empire through the rule of Genghis Khan. Women of this people group had high standing, higher class women wielding power of management and negotiation. Empire responsible for the spread of the Bubonic Plague across Eurasia. Fostered achievements in historical writing, literature, art, mathematics, and astronomy.

2. Eurasian Steppes: Grassland with some semi-desert and becomes dryer toward the south, generally unsuitable for intensive farming.

3. Pastoral Nomadism: Way of life in which groups of people consistently migrate in order to find water and pastures.

4. Genghis Khan: The title of the Mongol ruler Temujin who came to power by uniting many of the nomadic tribes in Northeast Asia and founded the Mongol Empire, which became the largest contiguous empire in history after his death in 1227.

5. Pax Mongolica: A period of relative stability in Eurasia under the Mongol Empire during the 13th and 14th centuries. The Mongols culturally enhanced the Silk Road by allowing people of different religions to coexist.

6. Yuan Empire: Empire created in China and Siberia by Genghis Khan's descendent Kublai Khan.

7. Bubonic Plague: Bacterial disease of fleas that has an extremely high mortality rate and is transmitted by flea bites to rodents and humans. Humans can also spread the disease by coughing.

8. Il-khan: "Secondary" khan based in Persia that controlled most of Iran and Iraq and was founded by a grandson of Genghis Khan named Hulegu.

9. Golden Horde: Mongol khanate based in southern Russia that adopted both Islam and the Turkic language. Founded by Genghis Khan's grandson, Batu. The decline of this Mongol khanate prompted the rise of Russian autocracy.

10. Timur: Name of the man who conquered much of Iran and Central Asia, and whose descendants founded the Mughal Empire in India.

11. Alexander Nevskii: Prince of Novgorod who submitted to the Mongol invasion.

12. Tsar: Russian title for a monarch

13. Ottoman Empire: Islamic state founded by Osman in northwestern Anatolia. After the fall of the Mongol Empire this state was based at Istanbul. It encompassed lands in the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus, and eastern Europe.

14. Tver Uprising: 1327 turning point in Mongol Russian relations. The populace of Tver started to rise in rebellion against the Mongols. Seeing this as an opportunity to please the khan of his Mongol overlords, Prince Ivan I of Moscow took a huge Tatar contingent and quashed the rebellion. As a result, Moscow took a step towards prominence and power.

15. Kublai Khan: Last of the Mongol Great Khans, founded the Yuan empire in China; he favored Buddhism, while his counterparts in the Chagatai Khanate, the Golden Horde, and the Ilkhanate later converted to Islam at various times in history

16. White Lotus Society- Syncretic religion and political movement that became an instrument of quasi-national resistance against the Mongol Yuan dynast’s rule over China during the later 13th century.

17. Zhu Yuanzhang- Inspired by the White Lotus Society, this Buddhist monk and former boy-beggar founded the Ming dynasty after he lead a rebel army against Mongol rule in China and captured the important city of Nanjing in 1356, making it his capital.

18. Ming Empire: Empire in China established after the overthrow of the Yuan.

19. Yongle: Emperor who sponsored the expeditions of Zheng He and the building of the Forbidden City.

20. Zheng He: An imperial eunuch and Muslim who went on a series of voyages that went through the Indian Ocean.

21. Kamikaze: The "divine wind," which the Japanese credited with blowing Mongol invaders away from their shores in 1281.

22. Marco Polo: Venetian merchant, explorer, and writer who travelled through Asia along the Silk Road between 1271 and 1295. His travels are recorded in a book that described to Europeans the then mysterious culture and inner workings of the Eastern world, including the wealth and great size of the Mongol Empire and China in the Yuan Dynasty giving their first comprehensive look into China, Persia, India, Japan and other Asian cities and countries.