

Name _____

Date _____

“The Mongols made no technological breakthroughs, founded no new religions, wrote few books or dramas, and gave the world no new crops or methods of agriculture. Their own craftsmen could not weave cloth, cast metal, make pottery, painted no pictures, and built no buildings. Yet, as their army conquered culture after culture, they collected and passed all of these skills from one civilization to the next.”

Jack Weatherford

1. Historical Background
2. General feeling you get about the Mongols from the passage. (Author’s perspective)
3. Evidence from the document to support answer to #2

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"In this city, Kublai Khan made a vast palace of marble cunningly worked and of other fair stone...The halls and rooms and passages are all gilded and wonderfully painted within with pictures and images of beasts and birds and trees and flowers and many kinds of things, so well and so cunningly that it is a delight and wonder to see. From this palace is built a second wall which in the direction opposite to the palace....encloses sixteen miles of land. It is fortified like a castle in which are fountains and rivers of running water and very beautiful lawns and groves...."

Marco Polo describing Xanadu

1. What would you see if you visited Xanadu?
2. How did the Pax Mongolica make a place like Xanadu more possible?

"The Great Khan keeps all sorts of beasts there, that is, harts and bucks and roe deer, and has them given to the falcons....In the middle of the park where there is a most beautiful grove, the Great Khan has made for his dwelling a great palace...of bamboo.. and on top of each pillar is a great dragon all gilded that winds the tail round the pillar and holds up the ceiling with the head."

More about Xanadu

3. Draw an image of what you read in these passages.