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**The Rise and Fragmentation of the Mongol Empire**

**Instructions:** Examine the map. Read the Background. Answer the questions.



**Background:** Genghis Khan was a powerful leader who started the Mongol Empire in the early 1200s. He brought together many different tribes in Mongolia and trained his army to be fast and strong. Mongolians were nomads, meaning they moved around often and did not stay in permanent settlements. The Mongolians mastered mobile combat on horseback. With effective battle plans and skilled horsemen, Genghis Khan led his warriors to conquer large areas of Asia, including parts of China, the Middle East, and even Europe. Genghis Khan made sure his empire was well-organized and allowed people to keep their own religions and customs, as long as they obeyed his rules. After Genghis Khan died, his grandsons took over the empire and divided it into four parts called khanates. These smaller sections were ruled by different family members, but they didn’t always get along. Over time, the leaders began to fight each other and lost control of the people they had conquered. New leaders and armies rose up and took back their lands. Slowly, the massive Mongol Empire fell apart and disappeared.

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| 1. What are nomads? How did being nomads make the Mongolians effective at warfare? |
| 2. When people were conquered by Genghis Khan, he allowed them to keep their religious practices. How do you think this impacted the relationship he had with those he conquered? |
| 3. What eventually happened to the empire Genghis Khan created? Explain. |

**Answers:**

1. **What are nomads? How did being nomads make the Mongolians effective at warfare?**  
   Nomads are people who move from place to place instead of living in one spot all the time. Because they were used to traveling, hunting, and surviving in tough places, they became strong and skilled at riding horses. This made them very fast in battle, and they could move quickly to surprise their enemies. Their way of life helped them become great warriors.
2. **When people were conquered by Genghis Khan, he allowed them to keep their religious practices. How do you think this impacted the relationship he had with those he conquered?**  
   By letting people keep their religion, Genghis Khan showed respect for their beliefs. This made the people feel less angry or scared after being conquered. They were more likely to follow his rules and not fight back because they didn’t feel forced to change everything about their lives. This helped Genghis Khan keep peace in his empire and made it easier to control the lands he took over.
3. **What eventually happened to the empire Genghis Khan created? Explain.**  
   After Genghis Khan died, his empire was passed down to his children and grandchildren. They split it into four parts called khanates. At first, these parts worked together, but later they started to fight each other. As time went on, the empire grew weaker, and other groups took back their lands. In the end, the Mongol Empire broke apart and no longer existed.