Learning Targets
• To make students aware of the significance of pastoral societies in world history
• To examine the conditions of nomadic life
• To investigate the impact of the Mongol Empire on world history
• To consider the implications of the Eurasian trade sponsored by the Mongols

Big Picture Questions
1. What accounts for the often negative attitudes of settled societies toward the pastoral peoples living on their borders?
2. Why have historians often neglected pastoral peoples’ role in world history? How would you assess the perspective of this chapter toward the Mongols? Does it strike you as negative and critical of the Mongols, as bending over backward to portray them in a positive light, or as a balanced presentation?
3. In what different ways did Mongol rule affect the Islamic world, Russia, China, and Europe? In what respects did it foster Eurasian integration?
4. Why did the Mongol Empire last only a relatively short time?
5. What has been the role in world history of pastoral peoples in general and the Mongols in particular?

Margin Review Questions
1. In what ways did pastoral societies differ from their agricultural counterparts?
3. In what ways did pastoral societies interact with their agricultural neighbors?
4. In what ways did the Xiongnu, Arabs, Turks, and Berbers make an impact on world history?
5. Identify the major steps in the rise of the Mongol Empire.
6. How did Mongol rule change China? In what ways were the Mongols changed by China?
7. How was Mongol rule in Persia different from that in China?
8. What was distinctive about the Russian experience of Mongol rule?
9. What kinds of cross-cultural interactions did the Mongol Empire generate?
10. Disease changes societies. How might this argument apply to the plague?

Key Terms
Almoravid Empire: Emerging out of an Islamic reform movement among the Sanhaja Berber pastoralists in the eleventh century, the Almoravid Empire incorporated a large part of northwestern Africa with its capital in Marrakesh. In 1086 it crossed into southern Spain where it offered vigorous opposition to Christian efforts to conquer the region. The empire had collapsed by the mid-twelfth century. (pron. al-muh-RAH-vid)

Black Death: Name later given to the massive plague pandemic that swept through Eurasia beginning in 1331; it is usually regarded as an outbreak of bubonic plague.

Chinggis Khan: Title meaning “universal ruler” that was given to the Mongol leader Temujin in 1206 after he united the Mongols. (pron. CHENG-iz KAHN)

Hulegu Khan: Grandson of Chinggis Khan (ca. 1217–1265) who became the first il-khan (subordinate khan) of Persia. (pron. hoo-LAY-goo KAHN)

Khubilai Khan: Grandson of Chinggis Khan who ruled China from 1271 to 1294. (pron. KOO-bih-lee KAHN)

Khutulun: A Mongol princess (ca. 1260–1306) whose exploits in battle and wrestling, along with her choice of husbands, provide insight into the relative freedom and influence of elite Mongol women in their societies. (pron. hoo-TE-yun)

Kipchak Khanate: Name given to Russia by the Mongols after they conquered it and incorporated it into the Mongol Empire in the mid-thirteenth century; known to Russians as the “Khanate of the Golden Horde.” (pron. KIP-chak KAHN-ate)

Modun: Great ruler of the Xiongnu Empire (r. 210–174 B.C.E.) who created a centralized and hierarchical political system. (pron. moe-DOON)

Mongol world war, the: Term used to describe half a century of military campaigns, massive killing, and empire building pursued by Chinggis Khan and his successors in Eurasia after 1209.

pastoralism: Way of life in which people depend on the herding of domesticated animals for their food.
Pastoralism: an alternative kind of food-producing economy focused on the raising of livestock. Pastoralism emerged only in the Afro-Eurasian world, for in the Americas the absence of large animals that could be domesticated precluded a herding economy.

Temujin: Birth name of the Mongol leader better known as Chinggis Khan (1162–1227). (pron. TEM-uh-jin)

Turks: Turkic speakers from Central Asia, originally nomads, who spread westward into the Near East and into India; they created a series of nomadic empires between 552 and 965 C.E. but had a more lasting impact on world history when they became dominant in the Islamic heartland and founded a series of states and empires there.

Xiongnu: People of the Mongolian steppe lands north of China who formed a large-scale nomadic empire in the third and second centuries B.C.E. (pron. SHE-OONG-noo)

Yuan dynasty: Mongol dynasty that ruled China from 1271 to 1368; its name means “great beginnings.” (pron. yu-wen)