

Name: _____

Hour: _____

Daily Life of the Mongols According to Marco Polo

***When Marco Polo references the "Tartars" he is talking about the Mongols.**

"Now that I have begun speaking of the Tartars, I will tell you more about them. The Tartars never remain fixed, but as the winter approaches remove to the plains of a warmer region, to find sufficient pasture for their cattle; and in summer they frequent cold areas in the mountains, where there is water and verdure, and their cattle are free from the annoyance of horse- flies and other biting insects. During two or three months they go progressively higher and seek fresh pasture, the grass not being adequate in any one place to feed the multitudes of which their herds and flocks consist. Their huts or tents are formed of rods covered with felt, exactly round, and nicely put together, so they can gather them into one bundle, and make them up as packages, which they carry along with them in their migrations upon a sort of car with four wheels. When they have occasion to set them up again, they always make the entrance front to the south. Besides these cars they have a superior kind of vehicle upon two wheels, also covered with black felt so well that they protect those within it from wet during a whole day of rain. These are drawn by oxen and camels, and convey their wives and children, their utensils, and whatever provisions they require. The women attend to their trading concerns, buy and sell, and provide everything necessary for their husbands and their families; the time of the men is devoted entirely to hunting, hawking, and matters that relate to the military life. They have the best falcons in the world, and also the best dogs. They live entirely upon flesh and milk, eating the produce of their sport, and a certain small animal, not unlike a rabbit, called by our people Pharaoh's mice, which during the summer season are found in great abundance in the plains. They eat flesh of every description, horses, camels, and even dogs, provided they are fat. They drink mares' milk, which they prepare in such a manner that it has the qualities and flavor of white wine."



From *The Book of Ser Marco Polo the Venetian*, trans. and ed. by Henry Yule, 3rd ed. revised by Henri Cordier (London: John Murray, 1903)

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Name: _____

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Use complete sentences when answering the questions!

Daily Life of the Mongols According to Marco Polo

- 1. What do the Mongol people do as the seasons change?**
- 2. What animal is the main food source for the Mongols?**
- 3. What type of housing do the Mongols live in?**
- 4. Besides horses what other types of animals do the Mongols use for transportation?**
- 5. What important roles or jobs do women have in Mongol society?**
- 6. What important roles or jobs do men have in Mongol society?**
- 7. According to Marco Polo the Mongols have some of the best types of what animals?**
- 8. List out the animals that the Mongols eat:**
- 9. What type of milk do the Mongols drink?**
- 10. After reading this document, what words or phrases would you use to describe the Mongols?**

Teacher Answer Sheet

Use complete sentences when answering the questions!

Daily Life of the Mongols According to Marco Polo

1. What do the Mongol people do as the seasons change? **The Mongols move to new locations with each season to better take care of their cattle.**
2. What animal is the main food source for the Mongols? **Cattle are the main source of food for the Mongols.**
3. What type of housing do the Mongols live in? **The Mongols live in easy to move huts or tents.**
4. Besides horses what other types of animals do the Mongols use for transportation? **The Mongols also use oxen and camels for transportation.**
5. What important roles or jobs do women have in Mongol society? **Mongol women do most of the trading, buying, and provide most of the resources for their family.**
6. What important roles or jobs do men have in Mongol society? **Mongol men mostly hunt and ready themselves for war.**
7. According to Marco Polo the Mongols have some of the best types of what animals? **The Mongols have some of the best falcons and dogs.**
8. List out the animals that the Mongols eat: **Mongols eat the following: horses, camels, dogs, and "mice".**
9. What type of milk do the Mongols drink? **The Mongols enjoy the milk of mares.**
10. After reading this document, what words or phrases would you use to describe the Mongols? **Answers will vary.**

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