



Accelerate Your Journey

ACTIVITY 4: GENGHIS KHAN'S YASSA: A LEGAL SYSTEM ROLE-PLAY

Student Directions

Objective:

Engage in a role-play activity where you will simulate the creation and enforcement of Genghis Khan's Yassa law code. You will role-play as Mongol officials dealing with various legal cases, applying the principles of Yassa to maintain order in the empire.

Steps:

1. Understand Yassa:

- o Begin by researching Genghis Khan's Yassa, the legal code that governed the Mongol Empire. Focus on understanding its principles, including:
 - The importance of loyalty and discipline.
 - The protection of trade and property.
 - The consequences for breaking laws.
- o Use class materials, textbooks, and any additional resources provided by your teacher to gather information about Yassa.

2. Form Groups:

- o You will be divided into small groups, each representing a group of Mongol officials responsible for enforcing Yassa in a particular region of the Mongol Empire.

3. Prepare Legal Cases:

- o Each group will receive or create a set of hypothetical legal cases that reflect the types of issues that might have arisen in the Mongol Empire, such as:
 - A dispute between merchants over trade goods.
 - A case of theft or property damage.
 - A soldier accused of disloyalty or desertion.
- o Review the details of each case and decide how to apply Yassa principles to resolve the issue. Consider the following:
 - What specific laws or principles of Yassa apply to the case?
 - What punishment or resolution is appropriate according to Yassa?
 - How would this decision maintain order and loyalty within the empire?

4. Role-Play Preparation:

- o Assign roles within your group, such as the head judge, legal advisors, and a scribe to record the decisions.
- o Prepare to present your cases and decisions to the class. Be ready to explain how you applied Yassa and justify your decisions based on the principles of the law code.

5. Role-Play Session:

- o During the role-play session, each group will present their legal cases and the decisions they made according to Yassa.

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- o Other groups will act as the general Mongol court, listening to the cases and decisions. They may ask questions or challenge the reasoning behind the decisions.
- o Defend your decisions by explaining how they align with the principles of Yassa and contribute to the stability of the Mongol Empire.

6. Debriefing:

- o After the role-play, engage in a class discussion to reflect on the activity. Consider the following questions:
 - How did Yassa help maintain order in the vast Mongol Empire?
 - What challenges did you face in applying Yassa to the legal cases?
 - How does understanding Genghis Khan's legal system help us understand his leadership and the success of the Mongol Empire?

7. Reflection:

- o Write a brief reflection (1-2 paragraphs) on what you learned from the role-play activity. Consider:
 - How did the Yassa legal code reflect the values and priorities of Genghis Khan's leadership?
 - What insights did you gain about the challenges of governing a large and diverse empire?
 - How did this activity deepen your understanding of the Mongol Empire?

Assessment:

- You will be assessed on your understanding and application of Yassa, the clarity and reasoning behind your legal decisions, your participation in the role-play, and your written reflection.