

Mongol Invasions Essay Assignment

Question: Did typhoons save Japan from the Mongols?

Write an essay (introduction, body, conclusion) in which you answer this question using the various sources on the Mongol invasions of Japan. While writing, you will be able to use the readings, the timeline, the map, your organizers, and notes you have taken during this lesson.

Expectations: Students will:

- Use multiple sources, including Takezaga Suenaga’s Mongol Scrolls.
- Include a thesis statement.
- Present at least two arguments that support the thesis statement.
- Address one or more of the opposing arguments.
- Use specific evidence from the various sources and attribute the source of their evidence.
- Proofread or use spell check and grammar check before turning in their response.

Essay Organizer

Introduction

- Start with a hook, a general statement or a quote. Do not start with a question.
- Use the introduction to lead the reader from the hook to the thesis.
- The thesis should clearly establish one’s position on the topic.

Body

- PARAGRAPH 1—The main point of this paragraph should be the strongest argument that supports the thesis. Specific evidence that supports the main point must be included, and the source of the evidence should be credited.
- PARAGRAPH 2—The main point of this paragraph should be the second strongest argument that supports the thesis. As in the previous paragraph, specific evidence that supports the main point must be included, and the source of the evidence should be credited.
- PARAGRAPH 3—The main point of this paragraph should be refuting the strongest competing argument(s). All evidence that supports that position should be introduced in a way that discredits the information.

Conclusion

- First sentence should restate the thesis using different words. Do *not* simply recopy the thesis statement.
- Next sentences should review the arguments that favor the thesis.
- The final sentence should be another general statement, one that provides an ending punch.
- *Do not introduce any new information or arguments in the conclusion. The conclusion is supposed to bring closure, not open a new can of worms.*

Mongol Invasions Essay Rubric

1=not present; 2=minimally present; 3=adequately present;
4=mostly present; 5=completely present, excellent work

CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5
Essay Structure and Documentation					
Introduction begins with a hook to draw the reader in.					
Thesis clearly states writer's answer to the central question.					
First paragraph of body presents the strongest supporting argument, with supporting evidence from two or more sources.					
Next paragraph of body presents the second strongest supporting argument, with supporting evidence from two or more sources.					
Next paragraph of body refutes the strongest opposing argument, discounting evidence from two or more sources that might be used to support the opposing argument.					
Conclusion begins with a restatement of the thesis using different words and includes a brief summary of the arguments that support the thesis.					
Conclusion includes no new information or arguments.					
Sources are properly attributed.					
Content/Analysis					
Essay clearly demonstrates understanding of the chronology of the Mongol invasions and Japanese reactions and responses.					
Essay clearly demonstrates understanding of the geography of the East Asia region.					
Essay considers sources' validity and reliability.					
Essay includes assessment of the competing historical interpretations.					

Comments: