

## Lesson Organizer

### Central Question: Did typhoons save Japan from the Mongols?

Complete the organizer for each source read or examined during this lesson. Focus on information that will help you answer the central question.

Source	Type of Source	Main Points/Key Information or Details	How Does the Source Answer the Central Question?
H. Paul Varley. "Medieval Japan: The Mongol Invasions: 1274 and 1281." Video from Asia for Educators at Columbia University.	Primary Secondary		
Your Textbook	Primary Secondary		
T. Walter Wallbank and Arnold Schrier. <i>Living World History</i> , 2nd edition. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1964, p. 243.	Primary Secondary		

T. Walter Wallbank et al. <i>History and Life</i> , 4th edition. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1990, p. 317.	Primary Secondary		
Marvin Perry et al. <i>A History of the World</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985, pp. 264-265.	Primary Secondary		
Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler. <i>Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past</i> , 4th edition. Columbus, OH: McGraw Hill, 2008, p. 471.	Primary Secondary		
Iftikhar Ahmad et al. <i>World Cultures: A Global Mosaic</i> . Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001, 388-389.	Primary Secondary		
Albert M. Craig et al. <i>The Heritage of World Civilization</i> , Combined edition, 4 <sup>th</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997, p. 269.	Primary Secondary		
Elizabeth Gaynor Ellis and Anthony Esler. <i>World History Connections to Today</i> . Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005, p. 321.	Primary Secondary		

<p>Martin Colcutt. "Japan's Medieval Age: The Kamakura &amp; Muromachi Periods." <i>About Japan, A Teacher's Resource</i>. New York: Japan Society, March 27, 2008.  <a href="http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org">http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org</a>.</p>	<p>Primary Secondary</p>		
<p>"Takezaki Suenaga's Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan." Bowdoin College.  <a href="http://www.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/">http://www.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/</a></p>	<p>Primary Secondary</p>		
<p>"Mongol Wall in Hakata Bay" PowerPoint.</p>	<p>Primary Secondary</p>		
<p>James P. Delgado. "Relics of the Kamikaze," <i>Archeology</i>, vol. 56, no. 1 (January/February 2003).  <a href="http://archive.archaeology.org/0301/etc/kamikaze.html">http://archive.archaeology.org/0301/etc/kamikaze.html</a>.</p>	<p>Primary Secondary</p>		

## **Textbook Accounts of the Mongol Invasions of Japan**

**1. T. Walter Wallbank and Arnold Schrier. *Living World History*, 2nd edition. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1964, p. 243.**

Japan adopted a policy of isolation. The seas separating the islands from the mainland of Asia served as protective barriers against invasion. Kublai Khan, the Mongol emperor of China at the time of Marco Polo's visit, did try to conquer Japan. In 1281 he sent 900 ships and 25,000 Mongol soldiers to the islands. But the Japanese resisted fiercely, and were helped by a storm which sank the ships and drowned the soldiers. The Japanese called this storm *Kamikaze*, or "Divine Wind." Several other early attempts to invade Japan from the mainland also failed.

In 1592 the situation was reversed...

**2. T. Walter Wallbank et al. *History and Life*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1990, p. 317.**

### **A Kamikaze wind saved Japan from Mongol invasion**

Although the Kamakura shoguns created order in Japan with samurai rule, their greatest test came from overseas. The Mongol ruler of China, Kublai Khan, sent two invasions to conquer his island neighbor. The final attempt was made in 1281 when 150,000 soldiers carried in a great fleet were sent to conquer Japan. The Mongols were able to force a landing, and the samurai fought desperately. However, to the joy of the Japanese, a powerful typhoon blew in and destroyed many of the Mongol supply ships. Kublai's invaders were forced to withdraw, thus losing many of their ships and soldiers. The Japanese gratefully called the typhoon the **Kamikaze** or "the Divine Wind." The name "kamikaze" was revived during World War II to recognize Japanese suicide pilots. These pilots were often assigned to dive an airplane loaded with explosives into a target, usually a naval vessel.

The Kamakura victory over the Mongols was its last great effort. Much treasure and strength had been spent defending the country. By the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the power of the Kamakura shoguns was rapidly declining, and the country eventually was broken up among various feudal groups. In 1333 Kamakura rule ended, and a new military group soon seized power. This latest group established the Ashikaga Shogunate...

**3. Perry, Marvin, et al. *A History of the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1985. p. 264-265.**

A “divine wind” saves Japan from Mongol conquest. By the late 1200’s, China had become part of the growing Mongol Empire. The Mongol ruler, Kublai Khan (page 258), demanded that Japan also accept his rule. When his demand was refused, he sent a fleet to invade Japan in 1274. The samurai fought off the invading Mongol horsemen, helped by a fierce storm that forced the fleet to withdraw. Seven years later, a Mongol invasion force of about 140,000 men again attacked Japan. Again, a storm swept out of the Pacific. The raging winds and towering waves of the typhoon wrecked many Mongol ships and left thousands of soldiers stranded in Japan. Believing that the typhoon had been sent by the *kami* to protect them, the Japanese named the storm *kamikaze*, which means “divine wind.”

The victory over the Mongols proved to be expensive for the Kamakura shogunate and for the samurai. Some samurai had spent so much in the war that they could no longer afford to maintain their horses and weapons. The shogun had no new lands to give them. Discontented samurai and nobles deserted the shogun to support an ambitious emperor who wanted more political power. Civil war broke out, and the Kamakura shogunate ended in 1333 with the suicide of the last shogun and his entire family and staff...

**4. Bentley, Jerry H. and Herbert F. Ziegler. *Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Columbus, OH: McGraw Hill, 2008, p. 471.**

Beyond China, Khubilai had little success as a conqueror...In 1274 and again in 1281, Khubilai also attempted seaborne invasions of Japan, but on both occasions typhoons thwarted his plans. The storm of 1281 was especially vicious: it destroyed about 4,500 Mongol vessels carrying more than one hundred thousand armed troops—the largest seaborne expedition before World War II. Japanese defenders attributed their continued independence to the *kamikaze* (“divine winds”).

**5. Iftikhar Ahmad et al. *World Cultures: A Global Mosaic*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2001, 388-389.**

“The Mongols are ready to sail!” Japanese spies sent word from Korea. The Japanese knew that the Mongol emperor Kubilai Khan wanted to add their lands to his empire. They built walls along the coast and put warriors on alert. They prayed to the *kami*, or spirits, for protection.

In June 1281, the invasion began. For seven weeks, Japanese warriors battled the mighty Mongol fleet. On the fiftieth day, thick clouds blotted out the sun, making the sky as dark as night. A howling typhoon whipped up the coast. For two days, the histories relate, “The wind blew fiercely, the...billows surged up to heaven, the thunder rolled and the lightning dashed against the ground so that it seemed as if mountains were crumbling down and high heaven falling to the Earth.”

When the storm quieted, the Mongol fleet lay in ruins. The Japanese rejoiced that the kami had sent a divine wind--a *kamikaze*--to destroy the invaders. They came to believe that the gods would always protect them from invasion.

**6. Albert M. Craig et al. *The Heritage of World Civilization, Combined edition, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997, p. 269.***

In 1266 Kublai Khan (see Chapter 8) sent envoys demanding that the Japanese submit to his rule. He had subjugated Korea in 1258 and his army looked outward across the Tsushima Straits. The Kyoto court was terrified, but the Hōjō at Kamakura refused. The first Mongol invasion fleet arrived with 30,000 troops in 1274, but retired after initial victories. The Mongols again sent envoys, this time they were beheaded. A second invasion force arrived in 1281, two years after Kublai completed his conquest of southern China. Carrying 140,000 troops, it was an amphibious operation on a scale new to world history. With gunpowder bombs and phalanxes of archers protected by a forward wall of soldiers carrying overlapping shields, the Mongol forces were formidable.

The Japanese tactics of fierce individual combat were not appropriate to their foe. But a wall of stone had been erected along the curved shoreline of Hakata Bay in northwestern Kyushu, and the Mongols were held off for two months until again *kamikaze* (divine winds) sank a portion of their fleet and forced the rest to withdraw. Preparations for a third expedition ended with Kublai's death in 1294.

The burden of repelling the Mongols fell on Kamakura's vassals in Kyushu. Non Kamakura warriors of Kyushu also were mobilized to fight under the command of military governors. But as no land was taken, unlike in 1221, there were few rewards for those had fought and dissatisfaction was rife. Even temples and shrines demanded rewards, claiming that their prayers had brought about the divine winds.

**7. Ellis, Elizabeth Gaynor and Anthony Esler. *World History Connections to Today. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005, p. 321.***

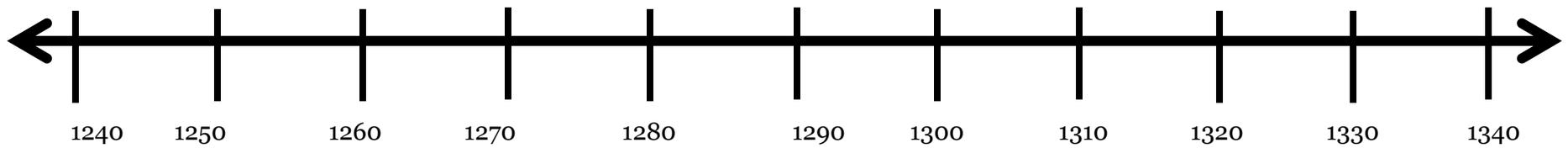
**Mongol Invasions**--During the feudal age, most fighting took place between rival warlords, but the Mongol conquest of China and Korea also threatened Japan. When the Japanese refused to accept Mongol rule, Kublai Khan launched an invasion from Korea in 1274. After a fleet carrying 30,000 troops arrived, a typhoon wrecked many Mongol ships.

In 1281 the Mongols landed an even larger invasion force, but again a typhoon destroyed much of the Mongol fleet. The Japanese credited their miraculous delivery to the *kamikaze*, or divine winds. The Mongol failure reinforced the Japanese sense that they were a people set apart who enjoyed the special protection of the Gods.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Handout (1 page)

**Timeline of Mongol Invasions of Japan**



## Map of Kamakura Japan



From Batten, Bruce L. *To the Ends of Japan: Premodern Frontiers, Boundaries, and Interactions*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003. Used with permission.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Handout (2 pages)

## Scrolls Organizer

Gather information from your assigned section of the scrolls and prepare to share that information with your classmates. Take notes in the appropriate section below. When all five groups have reported, discuss the following questions as a class: How is this source reliable? In what ways is it not reliable? How does the information in this source compare to the other sources you have examined?

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Section 5