THE GOLDEN Horde RESHAPES RUSSIA

**Directions:** Examine each of the documents below and answer the questions that follow.

**Mongol Destruction in Russian Lands**

. . . The wholesale looting and destruction of property and life in Russia during the Mongol invasion of 1237–40 was a staggering blow which left the Russian people stunned, and for a time disrupted the normal course of economic and political life. It is hard to estimate the Russian casualties (deaths) but they must have been tremendous, and if we include the vast throngs of civilians, both men and women, who were enslaved by the Mongols they can hardly have been less than 10 per cent of the total population. The cities suffered most in the debacle [disastrous defeat]. Such old centers of Russian civilization as Kiev, Chernigov, Pereiaslav, Riazan, Suzdal… as well as a number of other towns, were thoroughly destroyed, and [Kiev] lost its] importance for several centuries. Only a few major cities in West and North Russia such as Smolensk [and] Novgorod… escaped devastation at that time. The Mongol policy of conscripting [drafting] master craftsmen and skilled artisans for the khan’s service added a new burden…

Source: George Vernadsky, *The Mongols and Russia*, Yale University Press

1. According to this excerpt from “The Mongols in World History,” what are two ways the Mongols impacted Russia?
   a.
   b.

**Russia Saved By The Mongols**

. . . The Mongol impact, assert (claim) the Eurasian historians, proved highly beneficial to the Russians. “The Tatars [Mongols] defended Russia from Europe,” sparing it from conquest by the West. After the conquest Mongols and the people of Rus [Russia] coexisted in harmony and peace. From their conquerors the Rus adopted typical Turanian [Asian] character traits: steadiness, conviction, strength, and religiosity, all of which promoted the development of the Muscovite state. The Mongols assured to Rus secure commercial and cultural relations with the Orient; they enhanced the position of the Orthodox church. In the mid-13th century Alexander Nevskii, prince of Novgorod, faced with a fateful choice, wisely chose the East over the West: “Alexander saw in the Mongols a friendly force in a cultural sense that could assist him to preserve and consolidate Russian cultural identity from the Latin West.” . . .

Source: MacKenzie and Curran, *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning

2. Based on this document, state two changes that occurred in Russia as a result of Mongol rule.
   a.
   b.
The Rise of Moscow Under Mongol Rule

Mongols were comparatively light rulers: They were happy to live in their yurts (tents) and collect tribute (regular payments) from the ever-bickering Russian princes. And all the princes had to do in exchange for their relative freedom was recognize the Mongol khans as their rulers and allow the Mongols to pick the Grand Prince from among the Russians.

[The Mongol] Khanate of the Golden Horde… didn’t leave much lasting impact on [Russian culture]. But they did bring about a population shift — away from the South, where Kiev was, toward the Northeast, [where Moscow was]. Perhaps most importantly, Mongol rule cut the Russians off from the Byzantines and further isolated them from Europe, leaving Russia not Byzantine, not European, and not really Mongol either, since they hated the Mongols… But the Mongols did help propel Moscow to prominence (top position) and in doing so, created the idea that this [region around Moscow] was Russia. [How?] Well, first, they [gave] Muscovite princes (princes from Moscow) [the title of] Grand Prince on more than one occasion. More importantly, the Muscovite princes… purchased the right to collect tribute on behalf of the Khan from other princes. That’s a good gig because it’s easy to skim a little bit off the top before you send it down the line to the Mongols. Which is precisely what the Muscovites did to enrich themselves… All this loot helped Moscow expand their influence and buy principalities (territories). The Mongols also helped them more directly by attacking their enemies. Plus Moscow was at the headwaters (source) of four rivers which made it well-positioned for trade. And because they were kind of the allies of the Mongols, the Mongols rarely attacked them – which meant that lots of people went to Moscow because it was relatively safe. Including churchy people. In fact, Moscow also became the seat of the Eastern Orthodox church in 1325…

Source: John Green, *Russia, the Kievan Rus, and the Mongols: Crash Course World History*

3. Based on this document, what were three ways that the Mongols increased the power and position of Moscow?

a.

b.

c.

Which group below do you think had the greatest influence on the development of Russia? (Circle One)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLAVS</th>
<th>VIKINGS</th>
<th>BYZANTINES</th>
<th>MONGOLS</th>
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</table>

Support your position using at least 3 examples from the PowerPoint, the documents, or the textbook.