QUESTIONS TO ACCOMPANY “KUBLAI KHAN”
ARTICLE FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

1. How did Kublai Khan convince people that he, and not his brother, was the rightful successor to the Mongol leader Möngke in 1259?

2. What did Kublai Khan’s mother, Sorghaghtani, do that helped him in later years to be a tolerant ruler?

3. What were the strengths and weaknesses of each side in the war between Kublai Khan’s forces and the Song Dynasty of China?

4. Why did Kublai Khan adopt Chinese customs when he became emperor of China?

5. Why did Chinese nobles resent the government of the Yuan Dynasty?

6. What did the Yuan Dynasty do that limited social mobility in China? Who was most hurt by this?

7. How did Kublai Khan anger the Mongol elites?