

## History of Cultural Contact Writing Assignment – Diary of Joe/Josephine Nomad

The Eurasian nomads did not leave behind an abundance of written sources. Because these were primarily non-literate societies, many of the written sources on these people were created by people from settled civilizations. If the nomads could tell us about their encounters with the settled civilizations, how would they tell that story? What evidence would they leave behind?

You will create an artifact based on descriptions between nomadic and sedentary civilizations written by one of these authors

- Sima Qian/Xiongnu
- Ibn Fadlan/Turks
- Marco Polo/Mongols
- Ibn Batutta/Mongols

However, you will tell the story from the perspective of the nomads. For example, if you use Sima Qian's text describing the Xiongnu, how would the Xiongnu record their encounters with the Chinese?

### What you will produce:

- The Artifact: The artifact must be a non-written source – ie. an oral story (you can record it as an MP3), a stone carving, an item of clothing, a tapestry, a decorated weapon, etc. Use your imagination! (You do not need to make the artifacts out of real materials that were actually available to the ancient nomads. For example, a paper mâché version of an ornamental pot could stand in for a clay pot. You could even draw the artifact and specify what it is in your report.)
- The Explanation/Analysis: a 3-5 page report on your artifact that contains the following details:
  - What is it? What is it made of? How is it made? What is it used for? (You may need to do some additional research to answer these questions.)
  - What was going on at the time this artifact was produced? (Briefly explain the encounter between the nomads and sedentary civilization as described in the primary source you have chosen for the basis of your assignment.)
  - Why do you think this artifact is realistic?
  - How does this artifact depict the nomads' encounter with a sedentary civilization?
  - Whose perspective is depicted in this artifact? (A warrior? A tribal leader? A woman?) What is special about this perspective?
  - How is this artifact related to issues we have discussed in this unit?
  - What does this artifact tell us about the nomads' world view?

*Your analysis should be grounded in the primary source you have selected as the basis for your artifact, as well as other primary and secondary sources (including Powerpoints and class handouts) assigned for this class.*

	<b>Excellent (A)</b>	<b>Good (B)</b>	<b>Satisfactory (C)</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>
<b>Artifact creativity</b>				
<b>Artifact is realistic</b>	Likely to be created by the nomadic group of your choice, based on information from credible sources (ie. museum website, class readings, discussion etc.) and explained in detail	Likely to be created by the nomadic group of your choice, based on information from credible sources, and explained in basic way	Not likely to be created by nomadic group of your choice, not based on information from credible sources, and/or vaguely explained	Completely unrealistic and/or no explanation offered
<b>Artifact description (Where applicable)</b>	What the artifact is, how it is made, what it is made of, and what it was used for explained in detail, based on information from credible sources	What the artifact is, how it is made, what it is made of, and what it was used for explained in basic way, and based on information from credible sources	What the artifact is, how it is made, what it is made of, and what it was used for vaguely explained, and/or not based on information from credible sources	Missing or mostly incomplete
<b>Historical context</b>	Extent of encounter between the nomads of your choice and sedentary civilization explained with nuance, based on information from credible sources	Extent of encounter between the nomads of your choice and sedentary civilization explained in basic way, based on information from credible sources	Extent of encounter between the nomads of your choice and sedentary civilization vaguely explained, and/or not based on information from credible sources	Missing
<b>Perspective, and bias</b>	What the artifact indicates about your nomads' view of their place in the world and of sedentary society explained with nuance	What the artifact indicates about your nomads' view of their place in the world and of sedentary society explained in basic way	What the artifact indicates about your nomads' view of their place in the world and of sedentary civilization vaguely explained	Missing
<b>Grammar, spelling, style</b>	free of spelling, grammatical, syntax and stylistic errors	few spelling, grammatical, syntax and stylistic errors	Consistent and significant spelling, grammatical, syntax and stylistic errors	Has spelling, grammatical, syntax and stylistic errors that interfere with the reader's ability to understand the ideas
<b>Citations</b>	Footnotes/endnotes and bibliography completed in Chicago Style, without formatting errors	Footnotes/endnotes and bibliography completed in Chicago Style, with minor formatting errors	Footnotes/endnotes and bibliography incomplete, and/or with significant formatting errors	Missing