**Six Degrees of Genghis Khan**

There is a theory which states that “if a person is one step away from each person they know and two steps away from each person who is known by one of the people they know, then everyone is on average six steps away from each person on Earth”. This concept (popularized by statis mathematicians, sociologist Stanley Milgram and playwright John Guare) can be utilized not just to people but to events as well. As a butterfly flaps its wings... thousands of miles away, unintended consequences may be felt (butterfly effect as popularized by Bradbury’s “A Sound of Thunder”). If the Mongols (under the leadership of Genghis Khan) had such a profound impact on the 13th century world (use of gunpowder weaponry, Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Pax Mongolica, Kamikaze, Golden Horde, Sack of Baghdad, Mamluks, etc) that would have lasting impacts in the course of human events. Using Genghis Khan as a platform, connect him to a series of events, places and things which take (within 6 degrees) to a person, place or event relevant to your life today. Please utilize evidence and analysis to transition from one event, person, place, etc. to the next.

Example: This is merely an outline without the requisite references (resources like books and internet and such)

**Genghis Khan**- great leader who united the Mongols and established the largest contiguous land empire ever...etc established the Khanate system ensuring his legacy. One of these was the Yuan Dynasty led by his grandson Kublai Khan

1st Degree **Kublai Khan**: Leader of the Yuan Dynasty whose capital was in Beijing. He established the great court of Xanadu provided rights for women (while subjugating the Han Chinese) and sending for foreign ambassadors as far away as Venice where merchant Marco Polo will stay with Kublai Khan for 17 years.

2nd Degree **Marco Polo**: Venetian merchant who traveled with his father and Uncle to China on a trading mission who winds up narrating his story to a prisoner in jail upon his return. His “Travels of Marco Polo” become a best-seller throughout Europe as the recent invention of the printing press make affordable copies available to a newly literate audience. One of these adoring fans is explorer Christopher Columbus.

3rd Degree **Christopher Columbus**: Genoese born ,learns how to navigate at Prince Henry’s school of navigation in Portugal but eventually ends up sailing for newly unified Spain for King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Inspired by the travels of Marco Polo to find a new trade route to the Indies (as the Mediterranean was blocked by Ottoman and Italian city-state forces). After sailing the Ocean blue in 1492, he encounters a new world which will inspire the colonization of the Americas.

4th Degree: **Colonization of the Americas**: Various European nations will pursue exploration and colonization for God, Gold, Glory and the vast riches that colonization can provide. Amongst these riches of the “Columbian Exchange” is the potato. Having been introduced from Peru throughout Europe, many civilizations will use this tuber as a staple crop. One region that utilizes one type of Potato is Ireland.

5th Degree: **Irish Potato Famine**: After the Irish utilize the potato as a staple crop there is a bacteria which infects most Potatoes turning them black and creating a massive starvation know historically as the Great Hunger. 3 million Irish will emigrate to the United States for a better way of life in 1847 amongst these is The Davis and Tully clans who meet in 1953 when Jack and Clare Davis marry and have 9 children one who shall be named Paul.

6th Degree: **Me, Paul Davis**, your history and geography teacher who loves inconnecting historical events, people and places and illustrating how the events of the past are prelude of things yet to come.

Please be sure to cite all research sources and parenthetically reference and annotate in a bibliography, Illustrations (while not necessary) will help to both identify the transition (flow chart style?) as well as ameliorate the classroom (additional 5 bonus points)