

THE GREAT KHAN AT THE GREAT WALL

During her trip to China Lifang heard some stories about the Great Wall. She heard this story on the bus tour.

According to some stories, the Mongol people's father was a blue wolf and their mother was a white deer. The Mongols lived in the north, above China. They rode horses and raised sheep.



About 800 years ago there was a famous Mongol soldier. His name was Temujin. He was a brave soldier and a great leader. He and his people were moving around. They were looking for good grass for their sheep. They moved to the south and came to the Great Wall of China.

“What is that?” they said. “How long is it? How strong is it? Who built it?” Actually, the Chinese were still building it, but it was already very long and very strong.

Temujin saw the wall and said, “Strong people built that strong wall. Hungry wolves cannot attack a large bear. We cannot go over that wall now.”

But after a few years the Mongols were strong and their great “chief” (“khan”) led them to the Great Wall again. This time he led his people over the Great Wall into China and to Beijing. Their land reached the Pacific Ocean in the east and Russia in the west. Now Temujin was finally the Great Khan in Asia. Today we still read about Genghis Khan in our history books.

After Lifang's story Jiro said, “Genghis Khan? Don't they eat Genghis Khan in Hokkaido?”

“Oh, Jiro!” Lifang said. “You don't like history! You just like food! Actually, you can have Genghis Khan at my father's restaurant. The meat is from sheep and you cook it on a round hot plate. The plate is usually high in the middle, like a mountain. But it's not a mountain. It's Genghis Khan's helmet!”