

The Middle Ages

Lesson 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. The pope called on Crusaders to invade the Holy Land.
2. Despite some initial success, the later Crusades failed.
3. The Crusades changed Europe forever.

Key Terms and People

Crusades a long series of wars fought between Christians and Muslims over control of Palestine

Holy Land the European name for Palestine, the region where Jesus had lived, preached, and died

Pope Urban II head of the Roman Catholic Church who started the Crusades

King Richard I English king who led the third, ill-fated Crusade to seize Palestine

Saladin Turkish leader of the Muslim forces that prevented England from taking Palestine

Lesson Summary

CRUSADERS INVADE THE HOLY LAND

The **Crusades** were a long series of wars between Christians and Muslims in Southwest Asia. The Europeans fought the Muslims to retake Palestine. Christians call the region the **Holy Land** because it was where Jesus had lived, preached, and died.

For many years, Palestine had been ruled by Muslims. In general, the Muslims did not bother Christians who visited the region. In the late 1000s, however, a new group of Turkish Muslims captured the city of Jerusalem. Pilgrims returning to Europe said that these Turks had attacked them.

Before long the Turks began to raid the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine emperor asked **Pope Urban II** of the Roman Catholic Church for help. Although the Byzantines were Eastern Orthodox Christians and not Roman Catholic, the pope agreed to help.

Why did Christians call Palestine the "Holy Land"?

Underline the name of the person who made the call to arms that led to the Crusades.

Lesson 4, *continued*

Pope Urban called on Christians to retake the Holy Land from the Muslim Turks. Crusaders from all over Europe flocked to France to prepare to fight. About 5,000 Crusaders left Europe for the Holy Land in 1096. Many were peasants, not soldiers. On their way to the Holy Land, the peasant Crusaders attacked Jews in Germany. They blamed the Jews for Jesus’s death. Turkish troops killed most of these untrained peasants before they even reached the Holy Land. However, the nobles and knights, in 1099, were able take Jerusalem and set up four kingdoms there.

What happened to the peasant Crusaders?

LATER CRUSADES FAIL

Within 50 years the Muslims had started taking land back from the Christians. The Europeans launched more Crusades, but these invasions ended in defeat for the Christians. The Third Crusade started as a group effort between the German, French, and English kings. But only **King Richard I** of England stayed on to fight. His opponent was the brilliant Muslim leader **Saladin**, known for his kindness toward fallen enemies. Eventually, King Richard left the Holy Land, which was still under Muslim control. By 1291, Muslim armies had taken back all of the Holy Land. The Crusades were over.

Underline the name of the English and Muslim leaders fighting in the Third Crusade.

CRUSADES CHANGE EUROPE

The Crusades increased trade between Europe and Asia. In some cases, the Crusades increased the power of the European kings. But the main impact of the wars was divisive. The Crusades hurt the trust European Jews had developed with Christians. The Crusades also caused distrust between Muslims and Christians. Those tensions are still felt today.

How did the Crusades affect relations between Europe and Asia?

Lesson 4, *continued*

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Make Judgments Using what you know, write a brief paper describing how the Crusades continue to have an impact on our society today.

Crusades	Holy Land	King Richard I	Muslims
Palestine	Pope Urban II	Saladin	

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word from the word bank that best completes the sentence.

1. _____ agreed to help the Byzantines who were attacked by Muslim Turks in the Holy Land.
2. The leader of the Muslim forces who was respected for his kindness toward fallen enemies was _____.
3. The _____ were a long series of wars between Christians and Muslims in Southwest Asia.
4. Though the rulers of England, France, and the Holy Roman Empire led armies during the Third Crusade, only _____ of England stayed in the Holy Land to fight.
5. Palestine is called the _____ because it was the region where Jesus had lived, preached, and died.
6. The goal of the Crusades was to take the control of _____ away from the Muslim Turks.
7. The English leader _____ returned home with Jerusalem still in Muslim hands.
8. Following the Crusades, tension between Christians and Jews and _____ grew.