Name_____

The Crusades

During the Middle Ages, the Byzantine Empire in the East came under attack. In 1071 an army of Muslim Turks defeated the Byzantines and seized control of most of the Byzantine lands in Asia Minor.

The Byzantine emperor did not have enough money or troops to drive out the Turks. In desperation, he asked the pope to help him defend his Christian empire against the Muslim invaders.

In 1095 Pope Urban II spoke before a large crowd in eastern France. He asked Europe's lords to launch a crusade, or holy war, against the Muslim Turks. He urged them to capture Jerusalem and free the Holy Land where Jesus had lived from the Muslims. The pope explained why the crusade was needed:

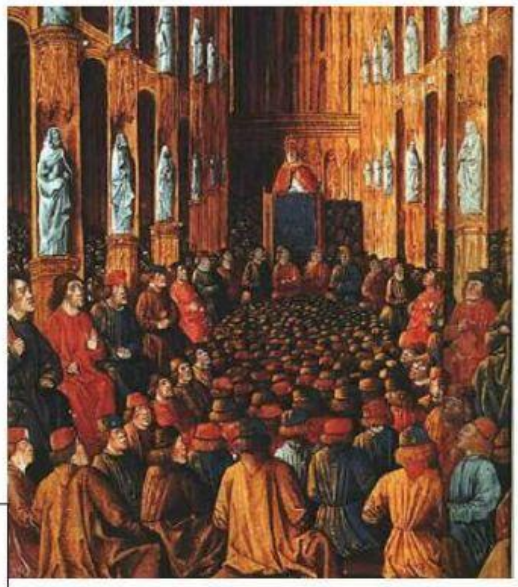
> **"Jerusalem is the navel [center] of the world. . . . This is the land which the Redeemer [Jesus] of mankind illuminated by his coming. . . . This royal city, situated in the middle of the world, is now held captive by his enemies. . . . It looks and hopes for freedom; it begs unceasingly that you will come to its aid."**
>
> **—Pope Urban II, as quoted in *The Discoverers***

As the pope spoke, the excited crowd cried out, "It is the will of God, it is the will of God." The Crusades had begun.

1. Who suddenly defeated the Byzantine Empire?

2. Why is it a big deal that the Byzantine emperor asked the Pope for help?

- **3. UNDERLINE who Pope Urban II is telling to launch a crusade.**
- **4. CIRCLE the definition of a crusade.**
- **5. Put an X over who currently has the Holy Land.**



Council of Clermont
Pope Urban II Call for the 1st Crusade

6. WHY is Pope Urban II telling people to go to Jerusalem?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Early Victories Several thousand soldiers on horseback and as many as ten thousand on foot headed east. Many of them wore a red cross on their clothes as a sign of their obedience to the pope's call.

In 1098 the First Crusade captured Antioch in Syria. From there, the crusaders entered Palestine, reaching Jerusalem in 1099. After a bloody fight, they stormed the city, killing Muslims, Jews, and Christians alike.

Having driven the Muslims from the region, the crusaders created four states: the Kingdom of Jerusalem in Palestine, the county of Edessa and the principality of Antioch in Asia Minor, and the county of Tripoli where Lebanon is located today. These four states were surrounded by Muslims and depended on the Italian cities of Genoa, Pisa, and Venice for supplies.

The Muslims fought back, however, and in 1144 they captured Edessa. In response, European rulers sent another crusade to regain the lost lands. This Second Crusade, however, was a total failure.

In 1174 a Muslim named **Saladin** (SA•luh•DEEN) became ruler of Egypt. He united Muslims and declared war against the Christian states the crusaders had built. Saladin proved to be a brilliant commander. He defeated the Christians and captured Jerusalem in 1187.

7. CIRCLE the four states created by the Christian Crusaders.

8. What is ONE difficulty the new Christian states faced, according to this paragraph?

9. Was the Second Crusade successful?

10. What Did Saladin do that lead to the Third Crusade?

11. CIRCLE the Crusader.







12. How do you know that this is a crusader?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The fall of Jerusalem led to the Third Crusade. Emperor Frederick of the Holy Roman Empire, King Richard I of England, (known as Richard the Lion-Hearted), and King Philip II of France gathered their armies and headed east to fight Saladin.

The Third Crusade had many problems. Frederick drowned crossing a river. The English and French arrived by sea and captured a coastal city but were unable to push inland. After Philip went home, Richard secured a small territory along the coast. He then agreed to a truce after Saladin promised that Christian pilgrims could travel to Jerusalem in safety.

Six more crusades were launched over the next 60 years, but they achieved very little. Gradually, the Muslims conquered all of the territory they had lost to the First Crusade. In 1291, a bit more than 200 years after the First Crusade had set out, the last Christian city fell to Muslim forces.

The Crusades affected Europe in two ways. They increased trade between Europe and the Middle East, and they helped break down feudalism. Nobles who joined the Crusades sold their lands and freed their serfs. This reduced their power and helped kings build stronger central governments.

13. What three leaders took part in the Third Crusade?

- ➢
- ➢
- ➢

14. Why did Richard the Lionheart agree to a truce?

15. WHAT LINE OF INFORMATION in this paragraph supports the statement that "The Crusades were basically pointless"?

16. Effects of the Crusades:

- ✓ Increased trade between _____ and _____
- ✓ Helped break down feudalism because _____ sold their lands which _____ their power and helped kings build _____

Draw in the thoughts of Richard and Saladin.



LIVEWORKSHEETS