

# What were the Crusades?

The Crusades were attempts by **Christians** from Western Europe to reclaim the **Holy Land** from the **Muslims**. Muslims are people who practise the religion of Islam. In total, there were eight crusades. The Crusades began in 1096 CE.

The Holy Land is centred on the city of **Jerusalem**. Jerusalem is an important place for both Christians and Muslims. For Christians, it is the place where Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected. For Muslims, it is where the prophet Mohammed went on a spiritual journey to heaven.

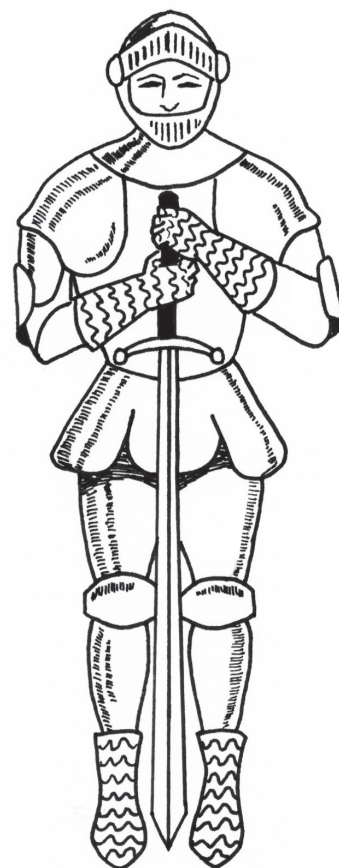
For centuries, Jerusalem had been conquered, destroyed, rebuilt and settled by many different nations. In the 7th century CE, it was claimed by Muslim armies.

The Muslims allowed Christians to visit the Holy Land, mainly because it was good for trade. However, the Muslim armies did not always treat the Christian **pilgrims** (travellers) well.


The Catholic Church became angry that the Holy Land was not in their control. They did not like the Muslim religion. Also, they were worried that Muslim power would spread.

In 1095 CE, Pope Urban II encouraged Christians to take back the Holy City. The following year, tens of thousands of Christians set off from Western Europe towards Jerusalem. There were many knights, as well as many peasants. During this first crusade, the Christians took back the city of Jerusalem, but they could not capture all of the Holy Land around it.

Some time later, the Christians again lost Jerusalem to the Muslims. A second crusade was ordered. There were many battles and millions of people died, but the Christians never again regained control of the Holy Land. The last crusade ended in 1291.



# The Crusades

 Read the Resource sheet 'What were the Crusades?'. Then complete the activities below.

**1** Match the sentence starter with the correct ending, by drawing a line between the two.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>a)</b> The Crusades were  | a series of wars between England and France.                               |
|  | a celebration of medieval bravery.   |
|  | a series of wars started by Christians, aimed at reclaiming the Holy Land. |
| <b>b)</b> The first crusade  | began in 1189.   |
|  | began in 1096.   |
|  | ended in 1202.   |
|  | ended in 1192.   |
| <b>c)</b> The most important part of the Holy Land was the city of | Paris.   |
|  | London.  |
|  | Jerusalem.   |
|  | Egypt.   |
| <b>d)</b> The Crusaders were                                       | Christian.   |
|  | Muslim.  |
|  | English.   |

**2** Give one reason why the Christians embarked on the Crusades.

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**3** Would you say that the Crusades were successful or not? Why?

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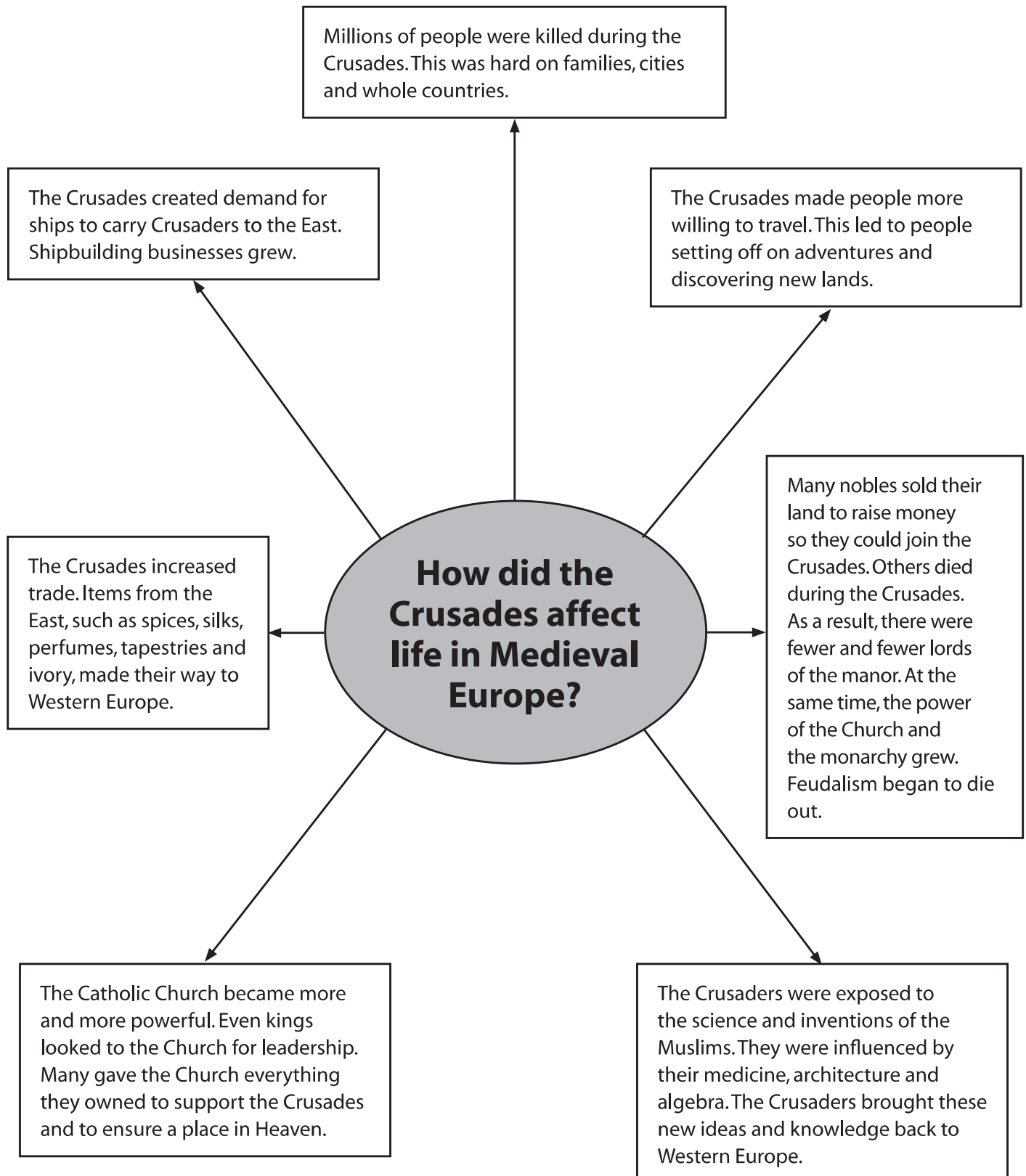
# Famous crusading orders

 1 Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank.


|   | Word bank                         |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| An 'order' was a group of Christian knights. These knights were not only trained in military skills, but they were also members of the Catholic Church. The knights protected Christian _____ travelling to the _____ Land. They also fought to reclaim the area. Knightly orders started with the _____.   | Crusades<br>Holy<br>pilgrims      |
| Before _____ set off for the Holy Land, they were given a cross made from red cloth. The _____ was sewn onto their tunics. It showed that they were working on behalf of the Catholic Church and _____.   | God<br>knights<br>cross           |
| There were _____ important _____ that took part in the Crusades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Knights Templar</li> <li>• the _____ Hospitaller</li> <li>• the Teutonic Knights.</li> </ul>  | Knights<br>orders<br>three        |
| The Knights Templar was the largest and most famous of the _____ orders. These knights were both soldiers and monks. They were known to be fierce fighters, but they had also chosen to live a poor and simple life and to obey the _____ Church. Their mission was to regain control of the Holy Land and protect all _____ pilgrims.                  | Christian<br>knightly<br>Catholic |
| The Knights Hospitaller was another important knightly order. This order was originally created to care for the wounded knights during the first _____. The Knights _____ joined forces with the Knights Templar to form the backbone of the Crusading _____. The Knights Hospitaller fought hard against Muslim advancement through the Mediterranean. | Army<br>Hospitaller<br>crusade    |
| The Teutonic Knights was a _____ knightly order. It was originally a part of the Knights Hospitaller, but some knights left to form their own _____.  | order<br>German                   |

# Effects of the Crusades

The Crusades had both negative and positive effects on life in Medieval Europe.



# The Crusades – a legacy

 The Resource sheet 'Effects of the Crusades' shows seven main effects of the Crusades. Each of these effects had its good points and its bad points.

1 With a partner, fill in the table below.

| Effect  | One positive thing about this was ... | One negative thing about this was ... |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Millions of people died   |                                       |                                       |
| People began to set off on adventures and discovered new lands            |                                       |                                       |
| Feudalism began to die out  |                                       |                                       |
| The power of the Catholic Church increased                                |                                       |                                       |
| The science and inventions of the Muslim world made their way to the West |                                       |                                       |
| The Crusades increased trade with Eastern countries                       |                                       |                                       |
| The shipbuilding industry grew  |                                       |                                       |