**Lesson 1 Crusades Notes**

**Read the following background notes…**

In the 1000s, tension increased between Muslims and Christians:

* In 1071, Muslim Turks defeated the army of the [Byzantine Empire](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/4/) at the Battle of Manzikert and Turkish [nomads](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/4/) settled in the Christian Byzantine Empire. In 1095, the Emperor of Byzantium appealed to Pope Urban II for help. Pope Urban II asked the knights of Europe to go on a Crusade to win back Jerusalem for Christianity.
* In the 1090s, the Muslim Turks made it harder for Christian pilgrims to visit Jerusalem.
* An army of knights and nobles captured Jerusalem in 1099. It was claimed that the Crusaders killed the Muslims until the streets ran with blood. The loss of Jerusalem was a terrible blow to the Muslims. For them, Jerusalem was, and still is, the third holy city of Islam.
* The Crusaders took over the two Muslim sacred buildings, the [Aqsa Mosque](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/4/) and the [Dome of the Rock](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/4/). They deeply offended the Muslims by the way they behaved in them.
* Christians in Spain began to move southwards and recapture lands that had once been Christian from the Muslims.

**The historian Giles Constable says: "each participant made his own crusade". Some reasons for going were:**

* To obey the Pope's call.
* To be forgiven for past sins. This was important for knights who had killed many people in battle.
* To steal and kill. Kings encouraged violent knights to go on Crusade because it got them out of the country.
* To see the world, have an adventure and prove their bravery.
* To get land overseas. This was tempting for a younger son who would not inherit his father's lands.
* [Serfs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/4/) joined the Crusades because the Pope promised them their freedom if they went.

**Why might you join or not join a Holy war?**

Historians disagree about what to include as 'the Crusades', but a sensible list would include (most disagreement comes over when was the last Crusade):

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| **1096‒1099** | First Crusade | First an army of peasants led by Peter the Hermit set off for the [**Holy Land**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/5/). They were [**massacred**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/5/) by the Turks.  An army of knights followed, led by Godfrey of Bouillon, which captured Jerusalem in 1099. The Crusaders massacred the Muslims until, it was said, the streets ran with blood. |
| **1145‒1149** | Second Crusade | King Louis VII of France invaded the Holy Land, but was defeated at Damascus. |
| **1189‒1192** | Third Crusade | In 1187, the Muslim ruler Saladin had recaptured Jerusalem.  The Crusaders (who included King Richard I of England) captured the port of Acre. But they quarrelled, and failed to capture Jerusalem.  On the way home, Richard was kidnapped. |
| **1202-1204** | Fourth Crusade | The Pope wanted to unite western and eastern Christians under his authority. He diverted this Crusade, with the help of Venice, and captured Constantinople in 1204. Christians fought Christians. |
| **1212** | Children's Crusade | An army of young people set off on Crusade.  They were kidnapped and sold as slaves. |
| **1217‒1250** | Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Crusades | All failed. |
| **1396** | Battle of Nicopolis sometimes called the 'last' Crusade | An army of French and Hungarian knights was [**massacred**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/middle_ages/the_crusades/revision/5/). Some historians refer to it as the 'last' Crusade. |

There were Crusades in Europe too for example in Spain against the Islamic Moors and in Eastern Europe Roman Catholic Crusaders attacked Russian and Greek Orthodox Christians indeed Crusades were often waged against anyone who was considered a heathen or non-believer, this included persecution against the Jews too.