

Oakland Unified School District
7th Grade – Medieval to Early Modern Times
Assessment Pilot
Spring Semester –
DRAFT

Topic: The Crusades



Richard the Lionheart at Ascalon



Why Did People Go on the Crusades? – Part I

Below are four sources that give clues about why people from Europe went on the Crusades. As you read them, see how many reasons you can discover for why people wanted to go to the place called the “Holy Land.”

Source #1

Your brethren (other Christians) who live in the east are in urgent need of your help and you must hasten (hurry) to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them...They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches...If you permit them to continue...the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them. On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech (beg) you...to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends...Christ commands it!

- Pope Urban speaking to a Council of Christian Bishops



Why Did People Go on the Crusades? – Part I

Source #1 – Questions and answers:

- 1) What did Pope Urban say was happening to Christians and their churches in the east (the “Holy Land”)?

- 2) What kinds of people did Pope Urban think should go to the aid of Christians?

- 3) Pope Urban speaks about a ‘vile race’ (mean or repulsive). Which group of people is he talking about and why do you think he called them that?

- 4) According to this source, what was the reason for going on the Crusades?

Source #2

All who die on the way (going to the Holy Land), whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans (people who were not medieval Christians) shall have immediate remission of sins [will have their sins forgiven.]. Oh what a disgrace if such a despised race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!

- Pope Urban speaking to a council of Christian Bishops

Source #2 – Questions and answers:

1) What did Pope Urban promise those who joined the Crusades?

2) Do you think this would have persuaded people to go? Why?

3) Why did Pope Urban think Christians should win?



Pope Urban II Sends Off the First Crusade

Source #3

Oh, race of Franks (French people) this land you inhabit, shut in on all sides by the seas and surrounded by the mountain peaks, is too narrow for your large population; nor does it abound in wealth; and it doesn't furnish (provide) enough food for its cultivators [farmers]. This is why you murder one another. The land which as the Scripture says "floweth with milk and honey," and Jerusalem where the land is fruitful above others, was given by God (to Christians)

- Pope Urban speaking to Franks (French people)

Source #3 – Questions and answers:

1) Why did Pope Urban think the Franks murdered each other?

- 2) What is Pope Urban's solution for the Franks to stop murdering each other? Do you think this is a good solution? Why or why not.

- 3) According to this source, why would people go on the Crusades?

Source #4 - On the Fourth Crusade the Christians never made it to the "Holy Land." They did, however, attack and conquer Constantinople – which was a Christian city on the way to Jerusalem.

There was so much treasure heaped up in Constantinople, so many precious gold and silver vessels, cloth of gold and rich jewels, that it was a wonder to behold. Never since the beginning of the world has such wealth been won.

- Account of Robert of Clari, a French knight who witnessed the looting of Constantinople.

Source #4 – Question and answer:

- 1) According to this source, what might have been another reason to go on the Crusades?

Why People Went on the Crusades? – Part I Summary Sheet

- 1) Use what you read in sources 1-4 to list four reasons that explain why people went on the Crusades.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

- 2) In your opinion, which one of these reasons best explains why people might have been willing to go, facing many risks and enduring many hardships? Explain why you picked that reason?

- 3) If you were using just source #1 what would you say the reason for the Crusades was?

- 4) If you were using both Source #1 and Source #4 what would you say the reason for the Crusades was?

- 5) Thinking about how you answered questions 3 and 4 above - why do you think it is important for historians to use more than one source when they try to write about the historical events and historical people? Explain.

What Happened On the Crusades? - Part II

Once the Crusaders reached the Holy Land, things were still difficult. Source #5 describes the First Crusade and what happened when the European Christians took over Jerusalem. Source #6 describes what happened to some of the Europeans during the Second Crusade. Read the two sources and answer the questions that follow.

Source #5 – One account of what happened when the medieval Christians conquered Jerusalem on the first Crusade.

The First Crusade

Now that our men had possession of the walls and towers, wonderful sights were to be seen. Some of our men cut off the heads of their enemies; others shot them with arrows so that they fell from the towers; others tortured them longer by casting them into the flames. Piles of heads, hands, and feet were to be seen in the streets of the city. It was necessary to pick one's way over the bodies of men and horses. ...In the Temple of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins. Indeed, it was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with the blood of the unbelievers, since it had suffered so long from their blasphemies.

Now that the city was taken, it was well worth all our previous hardships to see the devotion of the pilgrims. How they rejoiced and sang a new song to the Lord!

- From a description by Raymond d'Aguilers – someone who went on the Crusades.



Source #6 – An account of the hunger of the Christian forces during the second Crusade.

Priceless horses were slaughtered so that men could eat. Horse's guts were sold for ten shillings. Even noblemen would fall on their knees and eat plants. Some men were seen running about like mad dogs, desperate with hunger. If they found bones thrown out and gnawed by dogs three days ago, they would seize them, gnawing where there was nothing left to gnaw at, suck and lick them. Not that they got anything, except the pleasure of gnawing at the memory of meat.

- written by a monk in London around 1200.

- 1) Both these sources were written by medieval European Christians. Underline one or two sentences in source five that show a reader that this is written from a medieval Christian perspective. Write the sentence(s) in the space below and explain why you think it shows a Christian perspective.

- [illegible]

What Happened On the Crusades? - Part III

The Crusades continued for many years. Almost 100 years after the first Crusade a third Crusade took off from Europe. Below are two sources, one from King Richard who was an English leader of the Crusades and one from Saladin who was a Muslim leader. Read the sources 7 and 8. Answer the questions on the next page and then make a judgment about who you believe had the better case for his actions.

Source #7 –

King Richard was the leader of the English army on the Crusades. The statement below is taken from his message to Saladin, the leader of the Muslims who were fighting the Christians.



Men of ours and of yours have died, the country is in ruins, and events have escaped anyone's control. Do you not believe that it is enough? As far as we are concerned, there are only three subjects of discord (where we disagree): Jerusalem, the True Cross, and territory. As for Jerusalem, it is our place of worship and we will never agree to renounce it, even if we have to fight to the last man. As for territory, all we want is that the land west of the Jordan be ceded to us. As for the Cross, for you it is merely a piece of wood, whereas for us its value is inestimable (priceless). Let the Sultan give it to us, and let us put an end to this exhausting struggle.

Source #8-

Saladin's Response to King Richard's message



Jerusalem is holy to us as well as to you, and more so, seeing it is the scene of our Prophet's journey, and the place where our people must assemble at the Last Day. Think not that we shall give it to you. As for the land, it was ours to begin with, and you invaded it' nor had you taken it but for the feebleness of the Muslims who then had it; and so long as this war lasts God will not permit you to set up a stone in it. As for the Cross, our holding it is a point of advantage, nor can we surrender it except for some benefit of Islam.

<p>Source 9 – <i>questions and answers</i> King Richard says there are three things he wants from Saladin, the leader of the Muslims. List those three things below and explain why he wanted each.</p> <p>1. What did he want and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. What did he want and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. What did he want and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Source 10 – <i>questions and answers</i> What was Saladin’s response to Richard’s requests? For each request explain how Saladin responded and why.</p> <p>1. How did he respond and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>2. How did he respond and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. How did he respond and why?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Judgment - Based on what you know about the Crusades – who do you think makes the best case for his requests and actions, King Richard or Saladin? Explain your judgment.

What were the results of the Crusades?

The Crusades were a significant (important) event in world history. The events of the crusades impacted people at that time and in the future. When historians look at the past, they try to evaluate if the results of the Crusades were these positive or negative. But to do this they also have to decide which events or outcomes were the most important to world history and which were not as important. Complete the following three activities

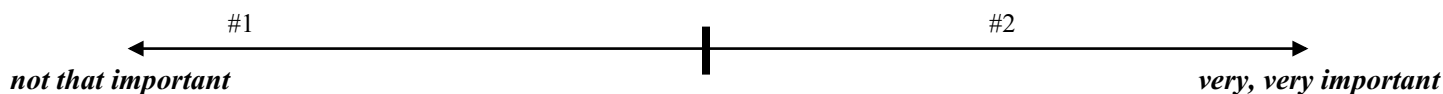
Categorizing the results of the Crusades: Which were positive and which were negative?

- 1) Below is a list of results that came from the Crusades. For each categorize it as either “positive,” or “negative.” After you finish you will use your judgments to explain if the Crusades were a positive or negative event in world history.

<i>Positive or Negative</i>	<i>Result</i>
1) _____	Europeans learned games from the Arabs – like Chess.
2) _____	There was more trade between Europe and the Middle East.
3) _____	Europeans got new foods such as rice, coffee, and spices.
4) _____	Europeans got goods such as mirrors and wheelbarrows
5) _____	Muslims got wool from Europe
6) _____	Europeans learned about algebra, chemistry, and a new number system
7) _____	European sailors started using the Arabic compass and astrolabe to find better sea routes.
8) _____	Cities in Italy became important trading centers between Europe and the Middle East.
9) _____	Feudal lords allowed serfs to buy their freedom. Then they used the money to pay for the Crusades.
10) _____	Because serfs gained freedom and because they could not get jobs in growing cities, the Crusades helped to bring an end to feudalism in Europe.
11) _____	The Crusades helped create distrust between Christians and Muslims that still exists today.
12) _____	Many people died during the Crusades
13) _____	Jews in Europe were killed by the Crusaders because they also didn’t believe in Christ.
14) _____	At the end of the Crusades Jerusalem was still in Muslim hands

Categorizing the results of the Crusades: Which were most important to world history?

- 2) Below is a scale to measure how important each of the above results were to world history. Starting with #1, decide its importance by placing it somewhere on the scale. If you think the result is not that important place it towards that end of the scale. For example, while #1 may be a good result, the learning of games may not be that important to world history. This idea means #1 would be towards the “*not that important*” end of the scale. On the other hand, you may decide that the growth of trade between Europe and Middle East was an important result. This ideas mean #2 would be placed towards the “*very, very important*” end of the scale. Now that you have the idea, complete this activity by placing #s 3-14 somewhere on the scale.



Which results did you have to the right of the center line? Write them in the spaces below.

- 4) Using **only** those results you placed to the right of the center of the scale – those towards the “very, very important” side - respond to the following question.

On a scale of 1- 10, how would you rate the Crusades impact on world history?
(1 is negative, 10 is positive). _____

Explain your answer in the space below.

Do you think your answer would be different if you were a Christian or a Muslim? Explain your answer below.

Final Crusades Assignment

Question: Did the Crusades have a positive or negative impact on World History?

Your assignment is to write a response to this question. Your challenge is to help the reader understand the Crusades and justify your opinion about the outcomes of the Crusades. Below is a guide to help you organize your response.

1. The first paragraph of this five-paragraph essay is written (almost) for you below. You may use this paragraph, once you have filled in the blanks, to start your essay. But if you think you have a better way of introducing your essay feel free to write your own opening paragraph.
2. In the second paragraph, explain what the Crusades were and why European Christians went on the Crusades.
3. In the third paragraph, explain what happened on the Crusades.
4. In the fourth paragraph, justify your opinion about the negative OR positive impact of the Crusades on world history. (You must choose one.)
5. In the fifth paragraph, write a brief conclusion to your essay.

ESSAY – A possible opening paragraph

The Crusades had a major effect on world history. Historians continue to discuss the positive and negative outcomes of these military expeditions from Europe to the Holy Land. In my opinion the *(positives or negatives)* _____ outweigh the *(positives or negatives)* _____. In order to understand my position, I will explain what the Crusades were and why Europeans went on the Crusades. Next I will explain what happened in the Crusades. Finally, I will explain why the impact of the Crusades was more _____ than _____.

Begin your essay on the following page. If you are using the above opening paragraph you should copy it at the start of your essay.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Name: _____
School: _____
Teacher: _____ Period: _____
Grade: _____ Date: _____



