

## The Crusades

### Timeline of events

**1096-1099: The First Crusade.** First an army of peasants led by Peter the Hermit (a French priest and key leader of the Crusades) set off for the Holy Land. They were massacred by the Turks. An army of knights followed, led by Godfrey of Bouillon (Frankish knight and another leader of the first Crusades), which massacred Muslims and captured Jerusalem in 1099. The Crusaders massacred the Muslims until, it was said, the streets ran red with blood.

**1145-1149: The Second Crusade.** King Louis VII of France invaded the Holy Land, but was defeated at Damascus.

**1189-1192: The Third Crusade.** In 1187, the Muslim ruler Saladin had re-captured 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 and held ransom until February 1194 when the English paid for his release.

**1202-1204: The Fourth Crusade.** The Pope wanted to unite western and eastern Christians under his authority. He diverted this Crusade, with the help of the people of Venice, and captured Constantinople in 1204. Christians fought Christians.

**1212: The Children's Crusade.** An army of young people set off on Crusade. They were kidnapped and sold as slaves.

**1217-1250: Fifth, sixth & Seventh Crusades.** All failed.

**1396: Battle of Nicopolis. The 'last' Crusade.** An army of French and Hungarian knights were massacred. Some historians refer to it as the 'last' Crusade..

### What do you think?

What is your interpretation of the Crusades?

Justified romantic adventures or vicious embarrassing wars?

A waste of resources, or worthwhile?

### Key Individuals

**Pope Urban II** - The Pope who in 1095 called upon all faithful Christians to free the Holy Land of infidels and ensure access to pilgrims. They would be forgiven for their sins if they fought.

**Godfrey of Bouillon** - A Frankish knight who led the First Crusade. After the successful capture of Jerusalem, he became the first protector of Jerusalem. He refused the title King as he saw Christ as the true king of Jerusalem.

**Richard the Lionheart** - He spent vast sums of money on the Third Crusade. He captured the cities of Acre and Jaffa, but failed to take Jerusalem. A treaty was signed, allowing Christians access to Jerusalem on pilgrimage.

**Saladin** - The first Sultan of Syria and Egypt, he led the Muslim campaign against the Crusaders, winning back control of Palestine, including the key city of Jerusalem. When he died he gave all of his vast wealth to his subjects

### Key Terms

**infidel** - someone whose religion is different to the majority of people (Christians and Muslims referred to each other as infidels)

**pilgrim** - a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons

**frank** - people of European descent - the name given to the Crusaders by Muslims

**ransom** - a sum of money demanded or paid for the release of someone who has been captured

**massacre** - to deliberately and brutally kill many people  
**treaty** - an agreement made between enemies, usually to bring about peace

**sultan** - a Muslim sovereign (leader)

**purgatory** - a place of great suffering where sins are purged from sinners before they are allowed to enter heaven

**hell** - a place regarded by several religions as the realm of evil and suffering

**Knights Templar** - a Catholic military order set up to protect Christian pilgrims

**relic** - part of a dead holy persons body or belongings, often said to have special powers of healing

**A vision**—a dream

**Taxes**—money paid to the government / king

**Pope**—the name given to the person who is head of the Catholic Church

**Monk**— a man who has devoted his life to God and lives in a monastery



1000 - 1483

Medieval England

Norman - Angevin - Plantagenet

1500 - 1750

Early Modern England

Renaissance - Tudor - Stuart

1750 - 1900 Modern Britain

Industrial Revolution  
Hannoverian

1900 - 2000

20th Century Britain

Great War - WWII - Cold War