Emperor of the Byzantine Empire to the HRE (1093)

“Come then, with all your people and give battle with all your strength, so that all this treasure shall not fall into the hands of the [Muslim] Turks…Therefore act while there is still time lest the kingdom of the Christians shall vanish from your sight and, what is more important, the tomb where Jesus was buried will vanish. And in your coming you will find your reward in heaven, and if you do not come, God will condemn you.”

-Alexius Comnenus

What is the emperor asking of the people in the HRE? Why? What is guaranteed to them if they fight?
THE CRUSADES

BIG IDEA:
• The RCC underwent reforms and launched the Crusades.
• The effects of the Crusades will impact the structure of medieval society.
• A legacy of distrust between Christians and Muslims was left by the Crusades that continue to this day.
OBJECTIVES

• Summarize the causes of the Crusades.
• Analyze the effects of the Crusades.
The Age of Faith inspires conquest…

Crusades span 300 years!
Setting the Scene...

In 1093, the emperor of the Byzantine Empire sent a letter to the Count of Flanders (in the HRE) that the Muslims were threatening his capital city of Constantinople. The emperor asked for help.

The pope of the RCC, Urban II, also read the letter. Urban then calls for a crusade to gain control of the Holy Land from the Muslims.
Important Players in the Crusades

- Christians
- Muslims
- Jews

Pope Urban II
Pope who called for the first Crusade

Saladin
Muslim leader in the 1100s

Richard the Lion-Hearted
English king who fought Saladin in the Third Crusade
Goal of the Crusades

- To gain back control of the **Holy Land in Jerusalem**

- Initial Reactions of the people:
  - Outpouring of religious zeal & support

“God wills it!”
Explain why both Christians and Muslims for the 1000s and 1100s believed that Jerusalem should belong to them.
Due to the Age of Faith, leaders of the RCC and political leaders went on wars of conquests.

Causes of the Crusades

- Political
- Religious
- Social
- Economic
Causes of the Crusades: Political

- Muslims controlled the Holy Land and threatened Byzantine Empire (who were EOC)
- **Pope wanted to reunite Christendom**
  - Take over EOC
Causes of the Crusades: Religious

- Knights promised “heavenly forgiveness” by the pope for fighting
- “God wills it!”
Causes of the Crusades: **Social**

- Kept quarrelsome knights busy
  - They were threatening the safety of the kingdoms

- Younger sons looked for adventure and fortune
  - Due to **primogeniture**

- People did what the Church told them to do
  - **In order to attain salvation**
Causes of the Crusades: **Economic**

- Merchants profited by making **cash loans** to finance the journey and by renting their ships out to crusaders.

- Italian merchants hoped to gain control of key trade routes to **India and China** from **Muslim** traders.
Crusades Timeline

- Use your book to fill in the missing parts of the timeline.
Timeline

• Go over in class

• Check the website for the key if you missed anything in our class discussion. 😊
REVIEW

• What was the goal of the Crusades in 1095?

• Is the goal accomplished?

• Do you think the Crusades are a success or failure so far?
The Crusading Spirit Dwindles

The spirit of conquest that was alive in 1095 loses steam as time goes on.

- Which Crusade was the only successful one?
  - The first one

- In what ways were the other Crusades failures?
  - Use your timeline

- How did the goals of the Crusades change over the years?
  - Religious goals → personal & economic gain
The Crusades are a formidable example of the power of faith during the Middle Ages.
Effects of the Crusades: **Political**

- Weakened feudal **nobility** and **knights**
  - They were gone fighting

- Increased power of the **king**

- Fall of **Constantinople**
  - Weak from being looted in 1204
Effects of the Crusades: **Religious**

- People became less trusting of the **RCC**
- Power of the **pope** declines
Effects of the Crusades: Social

- **POPULATION CHANGE**
  - Thousands left their homes

- **Women slightly more powerful if men left**

- **Lives and fortunes lost**

- **INTOLERANCE & PREJUDICE**
  - Legacy of bitterness/hatred between Christians & Muslims
  - Jews persecuted

- **Brought back learning of Greece & Rome**
Effects of the Crusades: Economic

- Trade expanded between Europe and Asia when Crusaders were exposed to new goods and services
  - Rise of merchant class in Europe
- Towns and cities emerge again
  - Centers of trade and commerce
BIG IDEA

How do you think the effects of the Crusades will impact the structure of medieval society and feudalism?

Form a response in a small group and be ready to share.
BIG IDEA: Possible Answers

How do you think the effects of the Crusades will impact the structure of medieval society and feudalism?

- As kings gain more power and the government centralizes, feudalism will decline.
- Loyalty will not be with the lord, but will shift to the king.
- People develop ideas and feelings of nationality.
- The manor system will decline with the rise of towns now accommodating trade with the Middle East.
FORMING AND SUPPORTING OPINIONS

Which of the following do you think BEST represents the Age of Faith? WHY?

CHURCH REFORM

GOTHIC CATHEDRALS

CRUSADES
Support Your Opinion

- Church Reform
  - Because it tries to eliminate bad Church practices

- Crusades
  - Faith in action

- Gothic Cathedrals
  - Represented cities of God
The Crusades: A Nursery Rhyme

Create a nursery rhyme about the Crusades!

*It must contain the following components that are necessary for a good, old-fashioned nursery rhyme:*

- **It talks about a bit of history**
  - Yours MUST INCLUDE at least ONE of the following:
    - Discuss causes of the Crusades
    - Discuss changes brought about by the Crusades
    - Explain whether the Crusades were caused by religious devotion or for the desire for political and economic gain.

- **It turns major players into common folk**
- **The evilness or stupidity of subject’s actions are hidden but still understandable in a story that doesn’t seem as awful as what is really happening**
- **It possesses a happy rhythm and rhyme that makes the story easy to remember**
- **It includes a fun children’s picture that helps hide the true meaning**
- **2-6 sentences explain WHY you chose the elements of your rhyme.**
- **Your rhyme should be 4-6 lines long (see examples)**

**GRADING:** 15 points
Mankind: The Story of All of Us

• Watch portion on the Crusades

• Concept to think about:
  • “passport to Heaven”

• Anything new you have learned?