

### Reading Check

#### Summarize

How did the architecture of Gothic cathedrals inspire reverence for God?

The red cross on his tunic identifies this knight as a crusader.



### Vocabulary

**Holy Land** Palestine; the area where Jesus lived and preached

**A New Style of Church Architecture** A new spirit in the church and access to more money from the growing wealth of towns and from trade helped fuel the building of churches in several European countries. In the early 1100s, a new style of architecture, known as **Gothic**, evolved throughout medieval Europe. The term *Gothic* comes from a Germanic tribe named the Goths. Unlike the heavy, gloomy Romanesque buildings, Gothic cathedrals thrust upward as if reaching toward heaven. Light streamed in through huge stained-glass windows. Other arts of the medieval world were incorporated around or in the Gothic cathedral—sculpture, wood-carvings, and stained-glass windows. These elements were meant to inspire the worshiper with the magnificence of God. Soon Gothic cathedrals were built in many French towns. In Paris, the vaulted ceiling of the Cathedral of Notre Dame (NOH•truh-DAHM) rose to more than 100 feet. In all, nearly 500 Gothic churches were built between 1170 and 1270.

## The Crusades

The Age of Faith also inspired wars of conquest. In 1093, the Byzantine emperor Alexius Comnenus sent an appeal to Robert, Count of Flanders. The emperor asked for help against the Muslim Turks. They were threatening to conquer his capital, Constantinople:

*“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 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 Holy Sepulchre [the tomb where Jesus was buried] shall vanish. And in your coming you will find your reward in heaven, and if you do not come, God will condemn you.”*

—Emperor Alexius Comnenus, quoted in *The Dream and the Tomb* by Robert Payne

Pope **Urban II** also read that letter. Shortly after this appeal, he issued a call for what he termed a “holy war,” a **Crusade**, to gain control of the **Holy Land**. Over the next 300 years, a number of such Crusades were launched and fought.

**Goals of the Crusades** The Crusades had economic, social, and political goals as well as religious motives. Muslims controlled Palestine (the Holy Land) and threatened Constantinople. The Byzantine emperor in Constantinople appealed to Christians to stop Muslim attacks. In addition, the pope wanted to reclaim Palestine and reunite Christendom, which had split into Eastern and Western branches in 1054.

Kings and the Church both saw the Crusades as an opportunity to get rid of quarrelsome knights who fought each other. These knights threatened the peace of the kingdoms, as well as Church property.

Others who participated in the Crusades were younger sons who, unlike eldest sons, did not stand to inherit their father’s property. They were looking for land and a position in society, or for adventure.

## Pope Urban II

In 1095, Pope Urban II issued a plea that resulted in the First Crusade. The pope assured his listeners that God was on their side.

### Analyze Historical Sources

What reasons does Pope Urban II give to his listeners to undertake a holy war?

*“Let the holy sepulcher of our Lord and Saviour, which is possessed by the unclean nations, especially arouse you. . . . This royal city [Jerusalem], situated at the center of the earth, is now held captive by the enemies of Christ and is subjected, by those who do not know God, to the worship of the heathen. Accordingly, undertake this journey eagerly for the remission of your sins, with the assurance of the reward of imperishable glory in the kingdom of heaven.”*

In the later Crusades, merchants profited by making cash loans to finance the journey. They also leased their ships for a hefty fee to transport armies over the Mediterranean Sea. At the same time, the merchants of Pisa, Genoa, and Venice hoped to win control of key trade routes to India, Southeast Asia, and China from Muslim traders.

**The First and Second Crusades** Pope Urban’s call brought a tremendous outpouring of religious feeling and support for the Crusade. According to the pope, those who died on Crusade were assured of a place in heaven. With red crosses sewn on tunics worn over their armor and the battle cry of “God wills it!” on their lips, knights and commoners were fired up by religious zeal and became Crusaders.

By early 1097, three armies of knights and people of all classes had gathered outside Constantinople. Most of the Crusaders were French, but Bohemians, Germans, Englishmen, Scots, Italians, and Spaniards came as well. The Crusaders were ill prepared for war in this First Crusade. Many knew nothing of the geography, climate, or culture of the Holy Land. They had no grand strategy to capture Jerusalem. The nobles argued among themselves and couldn’t agree on a leader. Finally an army of 12,000 (less than one-fourth of the original army) approached Jerusalem. The Crusaders besieged the city for over a month. On July 15, 1099, they captured the city.

All in all, the Crusaders had won a narrow strip of land. It stretched about 650 miles from Edessa in the north to Jerusalem in the south. Four feudal Crusader states were carved out of this territory, each ruled by a European noble.

The Crusaders’ states were extremely vulnerable to Muslim counter-attack. In 1144, Edessa was reconquered by the Turks. The Second Crusade was organized to recapture the city. But its armies straggled home in defeat. In 1187, Europeans were shocked to learn that Jerusalem itself had fallen to a Kurdish warrior and Muslim leader **Saladin** (SAL·uh·dihn).

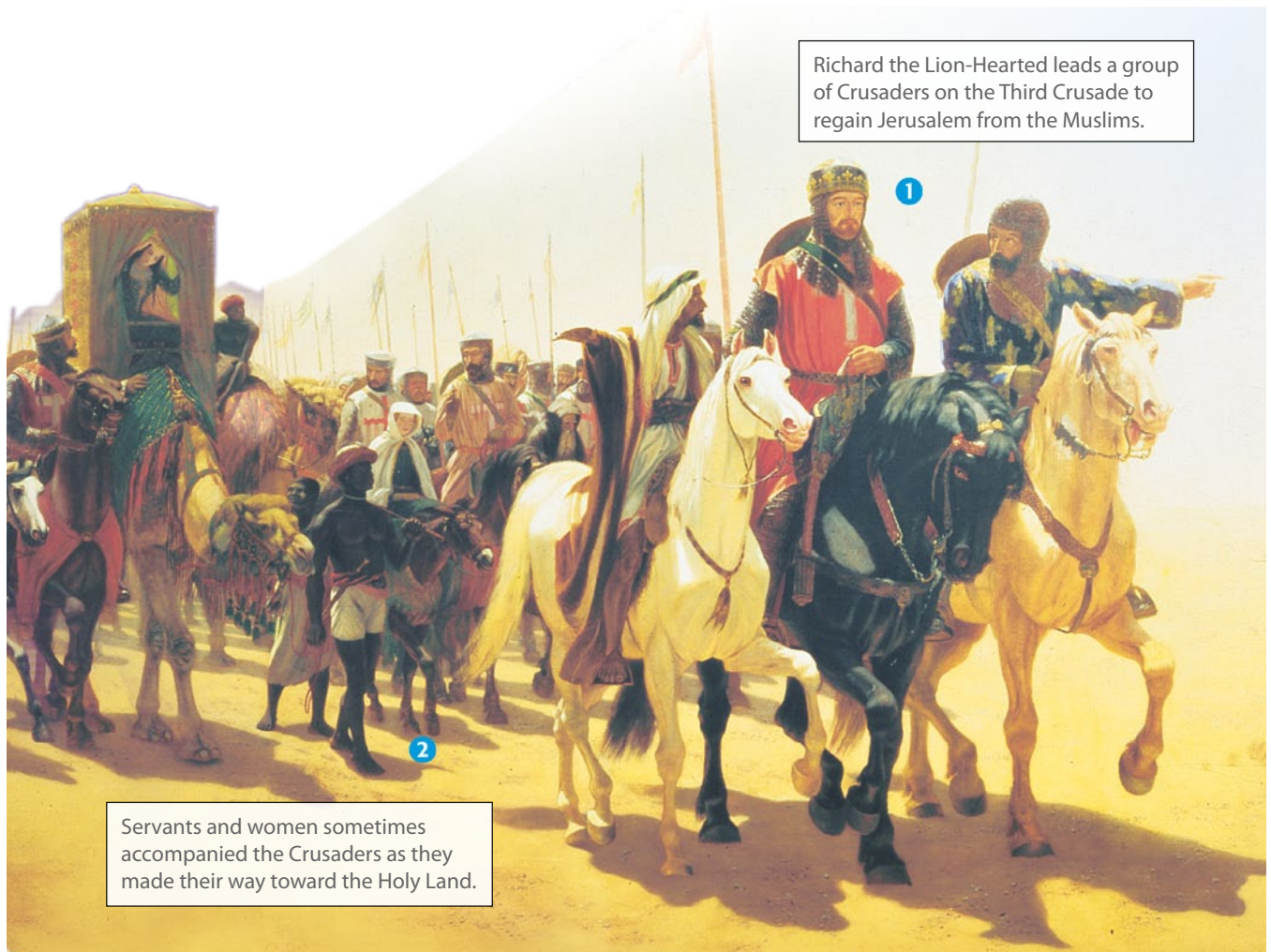
### Reading Check

#### Summarize

What, if anything, had the Crusaders gained by the end of the Second Crusade?

## What are the dangers and rewards of going on a Crusade?

You are a squire in England. The knight you serve has decided to join a Christian Crusade (a holy war) to capture the city of Jerusalem from the Muslims. He has given you the choice of joining or staying home to look after his family and manor. On an earlier Crusade, the knight and his friends looted towns and manors, taking jewels and precious objects. But some of the knights were also held for ransom, robbed, and murdered. You are torn between the desire for adventure and possible riches that you might find on the Crusade, and fear of the hazards that await you on such a dangerous journey.



Richard the Lion-Hearted leads a group of Crusaders on the Third Crusade to regain Jerusalem from the Muslims.

Servants and women sometimes accompanied the Crusaders as they made their way toward the Holy Land.

### Critical Thinking

1. **Analyze Motives** What reasons might an individual have to join a Crusade?
2. **Evaluate** What might be the advantages and disadvantages of staying home to defend the knight's family and estate?

## Historical Source

### William of Tyre

A Christian bishop, William of Tyre, drew upon eyewitness accounts of the capture of Jerusalem by Crusaders.

*“It was impossible to look upon the vast numbers of the slain without horror; everywhere lay fragments of human bodies, and the very ground was covered with the blood of the slain. It was not alone the spectacle of headless bodies and mutilated limbs strewn in all directions that roused horror in all who looked upon them. Still more dreadful was it to gaze upon the victors themselves, dripping with blood from head to foot, an ominous sight which brought terror to all who met them. It is reported that within the Temple enclosure alone about ten thousand infidels perished, in addition to those who lay slain everywhere throughout the city in the streets and squares, the number of whom was estimated as no less.”*

### Saladin

This is an excerpt of Saladin’s reply to a letter from Frederick I (Barbarossa) threatening Saladin. Saladin wrote the letter after he recaptured Jerusalem.

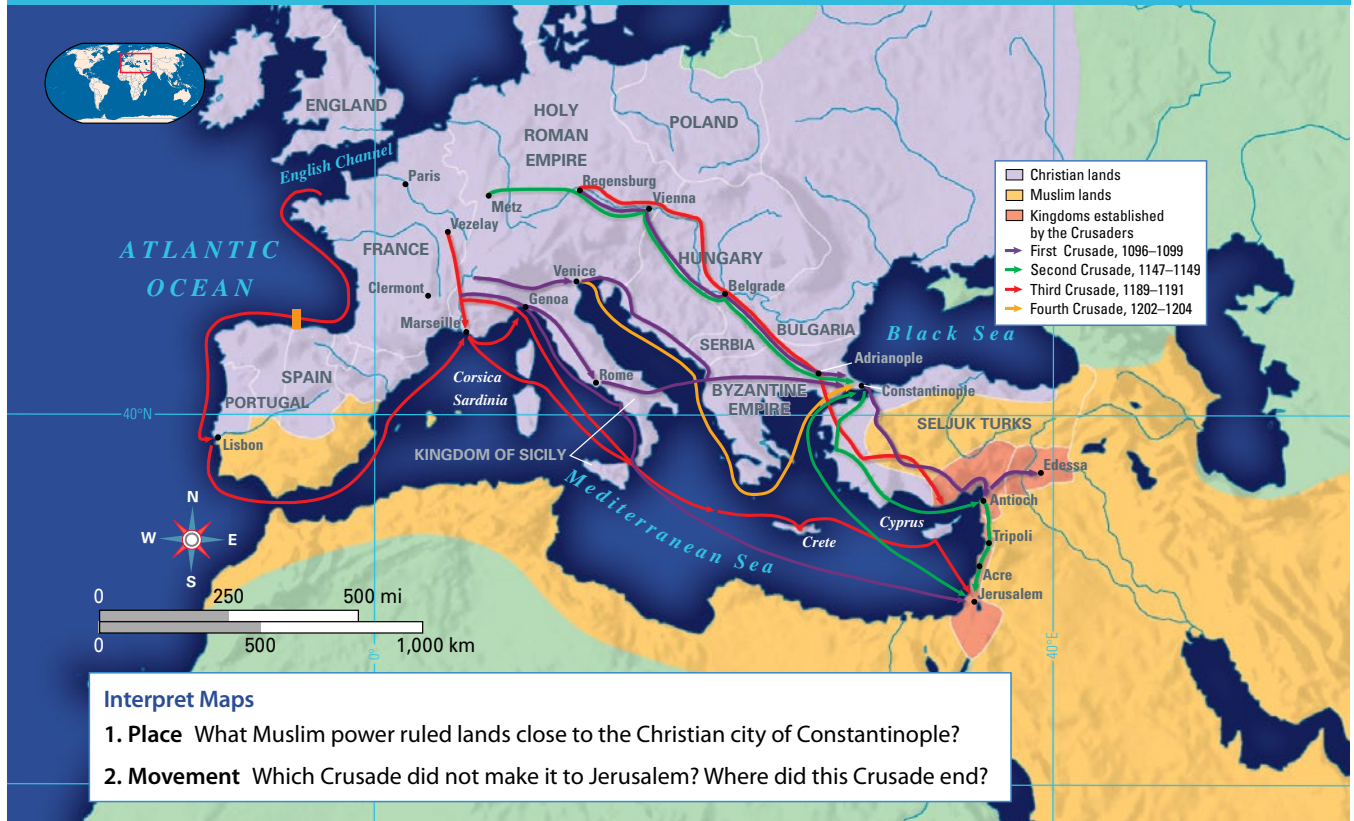
*“Whenever your armies are assembled . . . we will meet you in the power of God. We will not be satisfied with the land on the seacoast, but we will cross over with God’s good pleasure and take from you all your lands in the strength of the Lord. . . . And when the Lord, by His power, shall have given us victory over you, nothing will remain for us to do but freely to take your lands by His power and with His good pleasure. . . . By the virtue and power of God we have taken possession of Jerusalem and its territories; and of the three cities that still remain in the hands of the Christians . . . we shall occupy them also.”*

### Analyze Historical Sources

How did the brutal battles for Jerusalem affect each side? Explain.

**The Third Crusade** The Third Crusade to recapture Jerusalem was led by three of Europe’s most powerful monarchs. They were Philip II (Augustus) of France, German emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa), and the English king, **Richard the Lion-Hearted**. Philip argued with Richard and went home. Barbarossa drowned on the journey. So Richard was left to lead the Crusaders in an attempt to regain the Holy Land from Saladin. Both Richard and Saladin were brilliant warriors. After many battles, the two agreed to a truce in 1192. Jerusalem remained under Muslim control. In return, Saladin promised that unarmed Christian pilgrims could freely visit the city’s holy places.

## The Crusades, 1096–1204



## The Crusading Spirit Dwindles

In 1204, the Fourth Crusade to capture Jerusalem failed. The knights did not reach the Holy Land. Instead, they ended up looting the city of Constantinople. In the 1200s, four more Crusades to free the holy land were also unsuccessful. The religious spirit of the First Crusade faded, and the search for personal gain grew. In two later Crusades, armies marched not to the Holy Land but to Egypt. The Crusaders intended to weaken Muslim forces there before going to the Holy Land. But none of these attempts conquered much land.

### Historical Source

#### Luttrell Psalter

This illustration from a Latin text shows Richard the Lion-Hearted unhorsing Saladin during the Third Crusade. However, the two men never actually met in personal combat.

#### Analyze Historical Sources

What evidence reveals the artist's bias about the confrontation between Islam and Christianity?





### Richard the Lion-Hearted

(1157–1199)

Richard was noted for his good looks, charm, courage, grace—and ruthlessness. When he heard that Jerusalem had fallen to the Muslims, he was filled with religious zeal.

He joined the Third

Crusade, leaving others to rule England in his place.

Richard mounted a siege on the city of Acre. Saladin’s army was in the hills overlooking the city, but it was not strong enough to defeat the Crusaders. When finally the city fell, Richard had the Muslim survivors—some 3,000 men, women, and children—slaughtered. The Muslim army watched helplessly from the hills.



### Saladin

(1138–1193)

Saladin was the most famous Muslim leader of the 1100s. His own people considered him a most devout man. Even the Christians regarded him as honest and brave.

He wished to chase the Crusaders back into their own territories. He said:

*I think that when God grants me victory over the rest of Palestine, I shall divide my territories, make a will stating my wishes, then set sail on this sea for their far-off lands and pursue the Franks there, so as to free the earth from anyone who does not believe in Allah, or die in the attempt.*

#### Reading Check Summarize

Why did the fervor of the Crusades end?

**The Strange Story of the Children’s Crusade** Some stories of the Crusades mention that in 1212, thousands of children set out to conquer Jerusalem. From France, Stephen of Cloyes led as many as 30,000 children south to the Mediterranean. From Germany, Nicholas of Cologne marched about 20,000 young people over the Alps to the sea. Many died of cold and starvation on the journey. Thousands more were sold into slavery or drowned at sea after boarding ships for the Holy Land. Perhaps as few as one-tenth of those who set out on this Children’s Crusade returned home.

Historians doubt that this Children’s Crusade happened. The “children” probably were landless peasants and laborers searching for a better life. There certainly were young people in the crowds who took to the road in 1212, and some may have intended to travel to the Holy Land. However, the story of pious young people taking up the crusaders’ banner is more fiction than fact.

Cause	>	Effect
Crusaders travel to Holy Land		Increased trade and commerce More jobs for women and others left behind
Failure of Crusades		Weakened feudal nobility; increased power of kings Weakened pope and Byzantine Empire
Christian/Muslim interaction		Increased trade and shared knowledge Left legacy of hatred because of Christian intolerance

## The Effects of the Crusades

The Crusades are a forceful example of the power of the Church during the medieval period. The call to go to the Holy Land encouraged thousands to leave their homes and travel to faraway lands. For those who stayed home, especially women, it meant a chance to manage affairs on the estates or to operate shops and inns.


European merchants who lived and traded in the Crusader states expanded trade between Europe and Southwest Asia. The goods imported from Southwest Asia included spices, fruits, and cloth. This trade with the West benefited both Christians and Muslims.

However, the failure of later Crusades also lessened the power of the pope. The Crusades weakened the feudal nobility and increased the power of kings. Thousands of knights and other participants lost their lives and fortunes. The fall of Constantinople weakened the Byzantine Empire.

For Muslims, the intolerance and prejudice displayed by Christians in the Holy Land left behind a legacy of bitterness and hatred. This legacy continues to the present. For Christians and Jews who remained in the Muslim-controlled region after the fall of the Crusader states, relations with the Muslim leadership worsened. The Crusades grew out of religious fervor, feudalism, and chivalry, which came together with explosive energy. This same energy led to the growth of trade, towns, and universities in medieval Europe.

**Reading Check**  
Develop Historical Perspective  
In what way did the Crusades benefit people of all faiths?

### Lesson 2 Assessment

- 1. Organize Information** Fill in a timeline like the one below to organize key events.  
Which of the events of the Age of Faith do you think were most important to the Church? Explain.  

- 2. Key Terms and People** For each key term or person in the lesson, write a sentence explaining its significance.
- 3. Summarize** What were the three main causes for the need to reform the Church?
- 4. Evaluate** Which Crusade was the only successful one?
- 5. Develop Historical Perspective** How did the goals of the Crusades change over the years?
- 6. Form and Support Opinions** Which of the following do you think best represents the spirit of the Age of Faith—Church reform, the Crusades, or the Gothic cathedrals? Explain.
- 7. Make Inferences** What evidence supports the idea that the Church functioned like a kingdom?
- 8. Analyze Effects** How did the Crusades change the history of Europe? Give reasons for your answer.