The Crusades

Objectives:

• Identify key events of the Crusades
• Discuss motives for Crusades
• Discuss effects of the Crusades
What were the Crusades?

A holy war carried out by Christian political and religious leaders to take control of the Holy land from the Muslims.
As the Byzantine Empire began to fall to Seljuk Turks who were Muslim, its Emperor sought help from Europe and the pope.

By this time, Palestine and Jerusalem had been captured by Muslim forces.
Pope Urban II met with his bishops in 1095 and called for all Christian knights to take up arms and seize the holy land promising salvation for those who fell during the campaign.
Political, Economic and Religious Motives

**Political**
- Reinforce Papal authority
- Monarchs sought to rid themselves of knights who had been feuding causing political strife.

**Religious**
- Knights were fueled by religious fervor
- Papal promises of remission of sins
- Reconquest of southern Spain reinforced Roman Catholic attitudes toward Islam as an affront to Christianity.

**Economic**
- Merchants from the Italian city states sought new trading opportunities in Muslim lands
The First Crusade was successful for Christian crusaders as they conquered Jerusalem and organized the areas of Palestine, Edessa and Antioch into Four Crusader states.

These crusader states and Jerusalem would later fall to Muslim Turks led by Saladin.

By the mid-thirteenth century, five major crusades had taken place but ultimately, Jerusalem would remain under Muslim control.
The fourth crusade was funded by Venetian merchants who sought to eliminate the Byzantine Empire as a trade competitor. By this time, Venice and the port cities of Italy and become wealthy from trade. Crusaders sacked Constantinople and occupied the city until it fell to Muslim Turks in 1453.
Key events of Crusades

• Pope Urban’s speech which launched the first crusade
• The capture of Jerusalem from the Muslims
• Founding of Crusader states
• Loss of Jerusalem to Saladin
• Sack of Constantinople by Western Crusaders
Effects of the Crusades

Political

• Weakened the Pope
• Strengthened monarchs
• Weakened the Byzantine Empire

Religious

• Left a legacy of bitterness among Christians, Jews and Muslims.
Economic Effects

The Crusades stimulated trade by introducing Europeans to new products. European demand for luxury middle eastern goods increased.

Banking
European traders needed money and goods to trade with. Banking and credit (loans with interest) developed during this time, especially in Italy near the port cities. At first, Christians were forbidden from lending money with interest (usury). Many Jews became moneylenders because they had no religious restrictions. Later, the rule on usury was relaxed and Christians were able to charge interest to traders and merchants.

Commerce and Industry
Ideas, technology and trade influenced European development. Italian merchants developed new luxury products to sell such as glassware, woolen textiles and jewelry.
Meanwhile, invaders from the East brought terror to many Asian cities.

The Mongols would invade and conquer Russia, Baghdad, Persia and China creating the largest contiguous empire in history.