

WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 4- ©

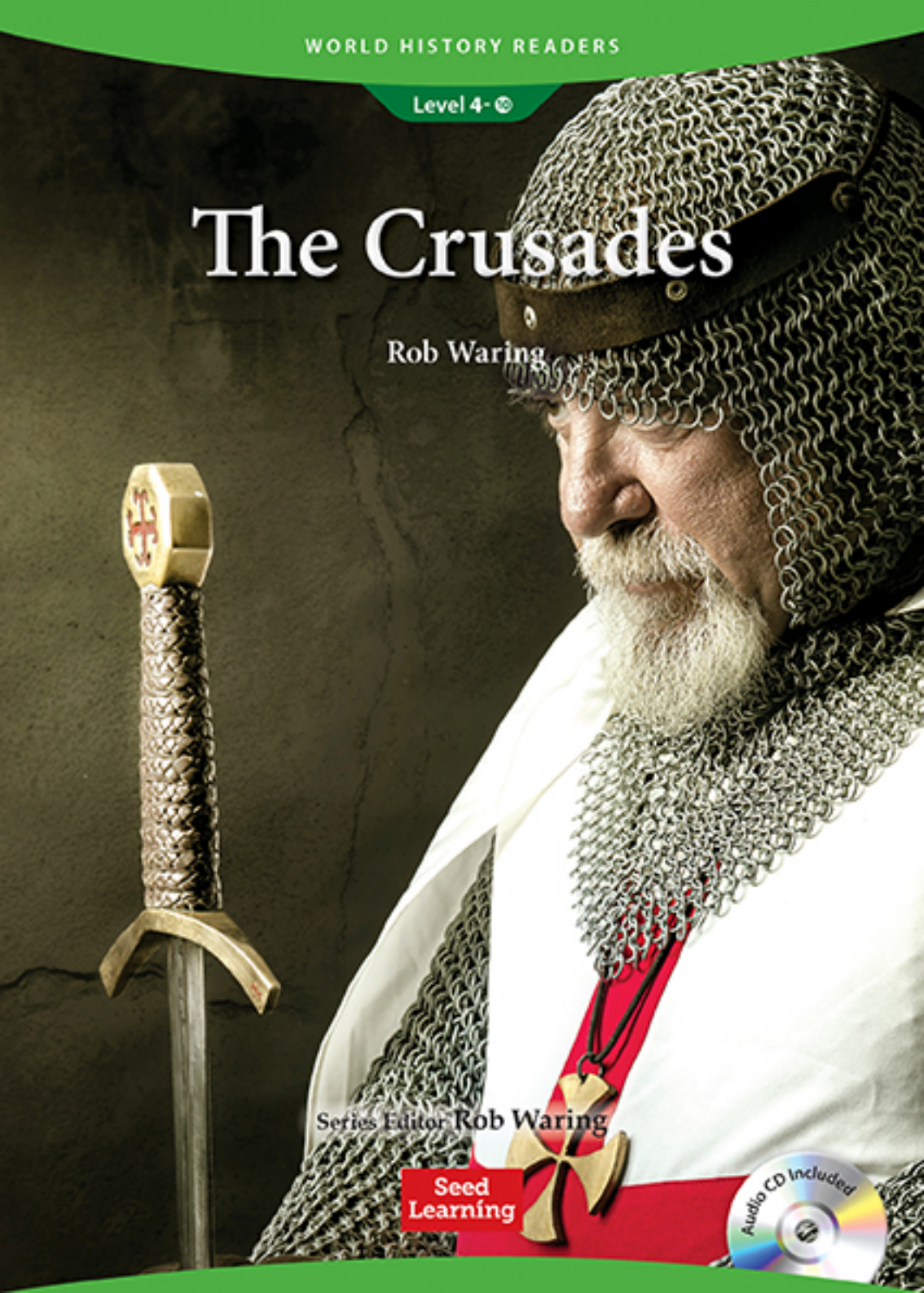
The Crusades

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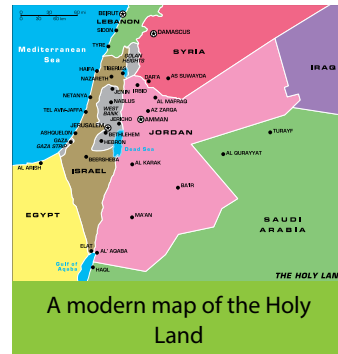
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The Holy Land

The area of the Middle East from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea is often known as the Holy Land. Today, Israel and Palestine occupy most of this area.

This area is considered important to Jews, Christians, and Muslims

because this is where many important events for these religions happened and where important people, such as Jesus Christ, lived long ago.



For thousands of years, there have been fights to control the Holy Land. Christians in western Europe did not like that the Holy City of Jerusalem, where Jesus had lived and died, was in the hands of the Muslims.

Over 1,000 years ago, western Europe was an important power. There was another powerful empire



in Europe as well, the Byzantine Empire (also known as the Eastern Roman Empire) of southeast Europe and Turkey. Western Europe wanted to show its power, especially through the Christian Church.



Pope Urban II



Pope Urban II,
preaching during the
First Crusade

At the end of the 11th century in Europe, the head of the Catholic Church was Pope Urban II.



Pope Urban II

At that time, the Byzantine Empire was attacked repeatedly by Muslim Turks. So the Byzantine Emperor asked Pope Urban II for help.

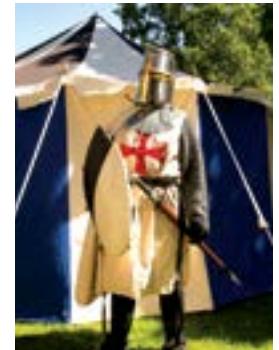
The Pope sent a message out to all European Christians asking them to help, and the response was favorable. Many Christians promised to help.



Muslim fighters and Crusaders

The First Crusade (1095-1099)

Pope Urban wanted Christians to fight for the Holy Land but did not want to pay them. He told the people who would fight, called Crusaders, that if they took control of the Holy Land, they would be fighting for God. So they would receive special benefits when they entered heaven.



A person dressed as
a Crusader

Many people liked this idea.

It was easy to gather an army of soldiers ready to fight for the Holy Land.



The First Crusade



Praying to God



Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, an example of Byzantine architecture



A Byzantine Christian image of Jesus Christ, Istanbul

In many groups, the first Crusaders left Europe in August 1096. These Crusaders were Christians from all over Europe. They arrived in Constantinople, now modern-day Istanbul, and met

with their allies in the Byzantine Empire.

The Crusaders and Byzantines marched toward Jerusalem through Muslim-controlled territories.

In 1099, they captured Jerusalem. Many Muslim and Jewish people were killed.

The success of the Crusaders allowed them to create many permanent settlements throughout the Holy Land. In fact, they expanded their lands as far as modern-day Iraq.



The Crusader States, around 1135

The Second Crusade (1147-1149)

The Muslims wanted to regain control of the Holy Land. In 1144, they were victorious at a place called Edessa. This victory would spark the Second Crusade.



Crusaders attacking Damascus

In 1148, King Conrad III of Germany and King Louis VII of France joined forces to attack the Muslims at the city of Damascus. The two kings did not, however, have much communication. It was easy for the Muslims to defeat the

Crusaders. The Second Crusade was a failure for the Crusaders and a sign of things to come.



Welcoming Louis VII to Antioch



The city of Damascus today

Comprehension Questions

1. The Holy Land is the area occupied by ... today.
 - (a) Turkey and Syria.
 - (b) France and Spain.
 - (c) Israel and Palestine.
 - (d) Greece and Egypt.
2. The Byzantine Empire was in...
 - (a) Greece.
 - (b) Southeast Europe.
 - (c) Israel.
 - (d) Egypt.
3. ...ordered the First Crusade.
 - (a) The Pope
 - (b) The Kings of Europe
 - (c) The Muslims
 - (d) The Jews
4. A crusade is...
 - (a) a religious war.
 - (b) an ancient city.
 - (c) an ancient temple.
 - (d) a part of the Holy Land.
5. Which crusade captured Jerusalem?
 - (a) First Crusade
 - (b) Second Crusade
 - (c) Third Crusade
 - (d) Last Crusade
6. Who controlled Jerusalem during most of the Crusades?
 - (a) The Israelis
 - (b) The Muslims
 - (c) The Crusaders
 - (d) The Egyptians
7. The Muslims were more successful than the Crusaders because they...
 - (a) had better weapons.
 - (b) had more money.
 - (c) united against the Crusaders.
 - (d) were blessed by the Pope.
8. The Crusades...
 - (a) lasted 200 years.
 - (b) happened in the Holy Land.
 - (c) happened in Europe.
 - (d) All of the above
9. Who can pray in Jerusalem now?
 - (a) The Jews
 - (b) The Christians
 - (c) The Muslims
 - (d) All of the above
10. The solution to peace in the Holy Land is likely to be...
 - (a) easy.
 - (b) hard.
 - (c) impossible.
 - (d) long.

Glossary

- **ally** a friendly person or country during a war or fight
- **Byzantine Empire** an empire also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, stretching from Europe to the Middle East (4th to 15th centuries)
- **Crusade** one of the religious wars fought by Christians in the 11th to 13th centuries
- **Crusader** a Christian fighting during the Crusades
- **favorable** showing that you like or approve of something
- **imminent** coming or likely to happen soon
- **Islam** a religion based on the teachings of Mohammed
- **Jew** a person who believes in the Jewish religion
- **Muslim** a person who believes in Islam
- **Pope** the leader of the Roman Catholic Church
- **regain** to get something back again
- **repeatedly** over and over again; constantly
- **successor** a person who follows and takes the place of another
- **treaty** a formal agreement between countries
- **unity** the state of being in agreement