

Topic 3a knowledge organiser: Key question: How important was religion in the Middle Ages?

Lesson 1: What did people believe in the Middle Ages?

Key words for this lesson:

Roman Catholic: Part of the wider Christian church. It was the ONLY recognised religion in Western Europe

Tithe: Tenth of the food the peasants grew and to be given to the church

Doom Painting: Painting in a church designed to show people images of heaven and hell

People believed in heaven and hell in the Middle Ages. They saw images of them on the walls of churches called **doom paintings**. The head of the Catholic Church is the **Pope**. He lives in Rome. The church was very important in the lives of people and performed many roles such as being a meeting place at the center of the community and performing baptisms, marriages and funerals.



Lesson 2: What important roles did monks and nuns perform?

Key words for this lesson:

Abbot: The head of an abbey or monastery (abbess for a female)

Orders: A group of monks or Nuns living under the same rules.

Chastity: You can not marry

Monks and nuns went to live in a religious community. Monks would live in a **monastery**, and nuns would live in a nunnery. Other religious houses were abbeys or priories. Here, the nuns and monks would live, pray and work together and lead holy lives. They took a vow of **chastity**, which meant they could not marry. Monasteries and nunneries performed vital roles like treating the sick in their **infirmaries**. They also gave **'alms'** to the poor and **illuminated manuscripts**. **Novices** trained to be monks and nuns.



Lesson 3: What were the Wars of the Cross?

Key words for this lesson:

Crusades: A series of journeys made by Christian Europeans to take the Holy Land back from the Muslims in the **Middle Ages**. Also known as 'Wars of the Cross'

Infidel: A person who has no religion or a religion that is not the same as that of another group of people

Pilgrimage: A journey of religious importance.

People went on the **crusades** as the Pope sent them, they wanted to get into heaven. Some saw it as a **pilgrimage**, a journey to a holy place. In this case the **Holy Land**, a region in the Middle East that was, and still is, very important to major religions such as Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The European Christians referred to Muslims as Sarcens. The word infidel means non believer. The **Seljuk Turks** had captured Jerusalem, which led **Pope Urban** to issue a **Papal Bull** to recapture the Holy Land.



Lesson 4: Why did people take part in the Crusades?

Key words for this lesson:

Inherit: To receive money, land or property as an heir at the death of the previous holder.

Papal Bull: An official document or call to action issued by the Pope

Chain mail: A suit of tightly woven steel rings.

People wanted to go on Crusades for different reasons. It was an adventure, a chance to become a hero, a way to make money and gain land. People went because the Pope had sent them and they believed their sins would be forgiven, so they could get into heaven.

Topic 3b knowledge organiser: Key question: How important was religion in the Middle Ages?

Lesson 5: What were the turning points of the Crusades?

Key words for this lesson:

Civilian: A non-military person

Saladin: Salah ah-Din, Leader of all Muslims.

Persecutor: Someone who treats other cruelly or unfairly.

1096 – 1099 1st Crusade

The First Crusade. Jerusalem stays in Christian hands for 88 years afterwards.

1145 – 1149 2nd Crusade

In 1144, the Muslim armies began to unite and started to take some of the Holy Lands back from the Christians.

1189 – 1192 3rd Crusade

The Third Crusade. Saladin's forces recapture land held by the Christians.

1202 – 1204 4th Crusade

The Fourth Crusade. Pope Innocent III asks Christians to capture Jerusalem again. They fail.

1217 – 1250 5th, 6th and 7th Crusades

There were a series of other Crusades throughout the 1200s, which failed to recapture Jerusalem.

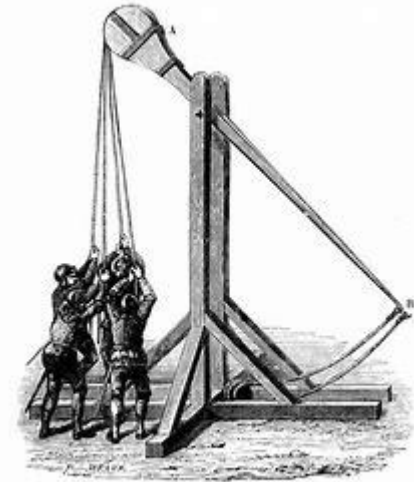
1396 Crusade of Nicopolis

Sometimes called 'the Last Crusade', this is a key turning point in the Crusades.

▼ **INTERPRETATION B** Painting (1400s) of Crusaders in Jerusalem in 1099, created by a Christian French lord who had not been on the Crusades.



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ion were discovered?

Lesson 2: What was the impact of the Crusades?

Key words for this lesson:

Trebuchet – a machine used in medieval warfare that could throw large stones or other objects

Franks – Common name for Crusaders

Roman Numerals: Europeans used Roman numbers like I IV III X etc.

Christian Europeans were able to bring back many goods from the crusades such as lemons, melons, apricots, sugar and cinnamon. They used Arabic numbers rather than Roman Numerals and had technology such as compasses. They learned new methods of warfare like trebuchets and learned from the advanced medical knowledge that the Muslims had.