

Why Lands Mattered

Trace religious, economic, and political causes of the Crusades.

6.6d "Competition and rivalry over religious, economic, and political control over holy lands led to conflict such as the Crusades."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each bold cause phrase, then write R for religious, E for economic, or P for political above it. Each bold group of words counts as one phrase, and it has one main category.

Competing for Holy Lands

- ① In the late 1000s, Jerusalem was holy to Christians, Muslims, and Jews. It was also part of a region ruled by Muslim leaders. Byzantine emperor Alexios I asked western European Christians for military help against the Seljuk Turks, who had taken much Byzantine land in Anatolia. In 1095, Pope Urban II called for an armed journey to the eastern Mediterranean. His call helped begin the First Crusade. Different groups joined for different reasons, while all moved toward lands they considered important.
- ② Religion was one cause of conflict because **Christians wanted access to Jerusalem's holy sites**. Economic competition also mattered because **Italian merchants sought profits from eastern trade**. Political rivalry grew because **European rulers wanted to control territory and gain influence**. These goals could overlap, but each describes a different kind of control. Crusading armies captured Jerusalem in 1099 and created several Crusader states. Muslim rulers later fought to regain these lands, and Byzantine leaders had their own concerns about security and control.
- ③ The Crusades did not look the same to everyone. Many western European Christians saw them as religious missions and chances for land or influence. Byzantine leaders sometimes welcomed help against enemies, yet they worried when western armies acted independently or seized former Byzantine lands. Muslim communities faced invading armies and the loss of cities, then supported leaders who worked to unite forces and recover territory. In 1187, Saladin's forces retook Jerusalem. Conflict continued through later Crusades, changing alliances, trade contacts, and political control.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What military problem led Byzantine emperor Alexios I to ask western European Christians for help?

2 Which marked phrase shows an economic cause of competition? What did the group want?

3 How did the Crusaders' capture of Jerusalem in 1099 lead to more conflict?

4 How did Byzantine leaders and Muslim communities have different concerns about the Crusades?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

YOUR TURN: Write exactly four sentences explaining why groups competed over holy lands. Begin the sentences with R:, E:, P:, and Conflict: in that order.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each bold cause phrase, then write R for religious, E for economic, or P for political above it. Each bold group of words counts as one phrase, and it has one main category. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What military problem led Byzantine emperor Alexios I to ask western European Christians for help?	The Seljuk Turks had taken much Byzantine land in Anatolia, so Alexios asked for military help.
2	Which marked phrase shows an economic cause of competition? What did the group want?	"Italian merchants sought profits from eastern trade." They wanted to make money from trade.
3	How did the Crusaders' capture of Jerusalem in 1099 lead to more conflict?	Crusaders captured Jerusalem and created Crusader states. Muslim rulers later fought to regain these lands.
4	How did Byzantine leaders and Muslim communities have different concerns about the Crusades?	Byzantine leaders wanted help against enemies but worried about western armies taking former Byzantine lands. Muslim communities faced invasions and loss of cities, then supported efforts to recover territory.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

R: Many Christians wanted to visit and worship at Jerusalem's holy places. E: Merchants hoped to earn money by trading in eastern ports. P: Rulers wanted territory and influence in the eastern Mediterranean. Conflict: When groups competed for these goals, armies could fight for control, as they did in the Crusades.

Accept accurate paraphrases of the passage and reasonable explanations that connect competition for religious, economic, or political control to conflict. In the Your Turn response, accept any historically accurate cause in each labeled category and a clear final link to conflict.