

# A FIGHT FOR THE HOLY LAND

Christianity was the major religion in Europe during the Middle Ages, but another religion was growing in the Middle East. Its followers were called Muslims. In the 7th century, Muslim rulers conquered Palestine—a Holy Land to Christians. Around A.D. 1000, rulers of Muslim lands killed Christians who were making visits to the Holy Land. This began many years of wars called the Crusades, an effort by Christians to regain control of the Holy Land. Using the timeline, fill in the blanks below.

## TIME CHART

**1071** Seljuk Turks defeat the Byzantines at Battle of Manzikert.

**1085-1492** Reconquest of Spain by Christian Crusaders.

**1095** Byzantine Emperor appeals to Pope Urban II; Peter the Hermit sets out on People's Crusade

**1096** Pope Urban II launches First Crusade

**1099** Christians capture Jerusalem

**1144** Muslims capture Edessa

**1147-49** Second Crusade

**1187** Saladin defeats Christians at Hattin and captures Jerusalem

**1189-92** Third Crusade

**1202-04** Fourth Crusade

**1204** Constantinople devastated by crusaders

**1209-29** Crusade against the Albigensians in southern France

**1212** Children's Crusade

**1228-29** Fifth Crusade

**1248-54** Sixth Crusade

**1270** Seventh Crusade

**1291** Fall of Acre—the last Christian stronghold

- Based on the time chart, the Crusades lasted \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- How many individual Crusades are mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Crusaders, European Christians, were fighting against the \_\_\_\_\_, a religious group from the Middle East and North Africa.
- In which two European countries were Crusades fought? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Which of the numbered Crusades lasted the longest? \_\_\_\_\_
- During which Crusade was Constantinople sacked by the Crusaders? \_\_\_\_\_
- It took the Christians \_\_\_\_\_ years to reconquer Spain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ led the People's Crusade at the urging of the Pope.
- What event marked the end of the Crusades? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the only Muslim leader mentioned by name on this chart.
- How many years passed between the time the Christians captured Jerusalem and lost it again? \_\_\_\_\_
- In the \_\_\_\_\_, two armies of children set out for the Holy Land, but most of the children never reached Palestine.
- Use a history book or encyclopedia to list at least one lesson or outcome of the Crusades. \_\_\_\_\_



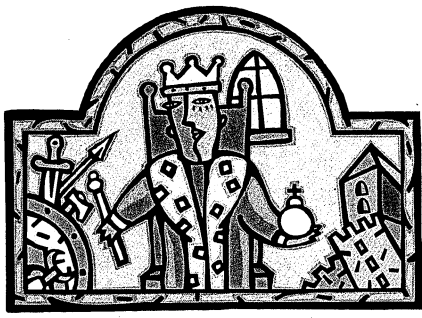
Name \_\_\_\_\_



## 5 W's Chart

Locate specific answers to the following questions about the Crusades using print and online resources. Note your answers in the "Answer" column. Record bibliographic information from each source you use during your research in the "Source" column.

Question	Answer(s)	Source(s)
What were the Crusades?		
Who took part in the Crusades?		
Why did the Crusades take place?		
Where did the Crusades take place?		
When did the Crusades take place?		

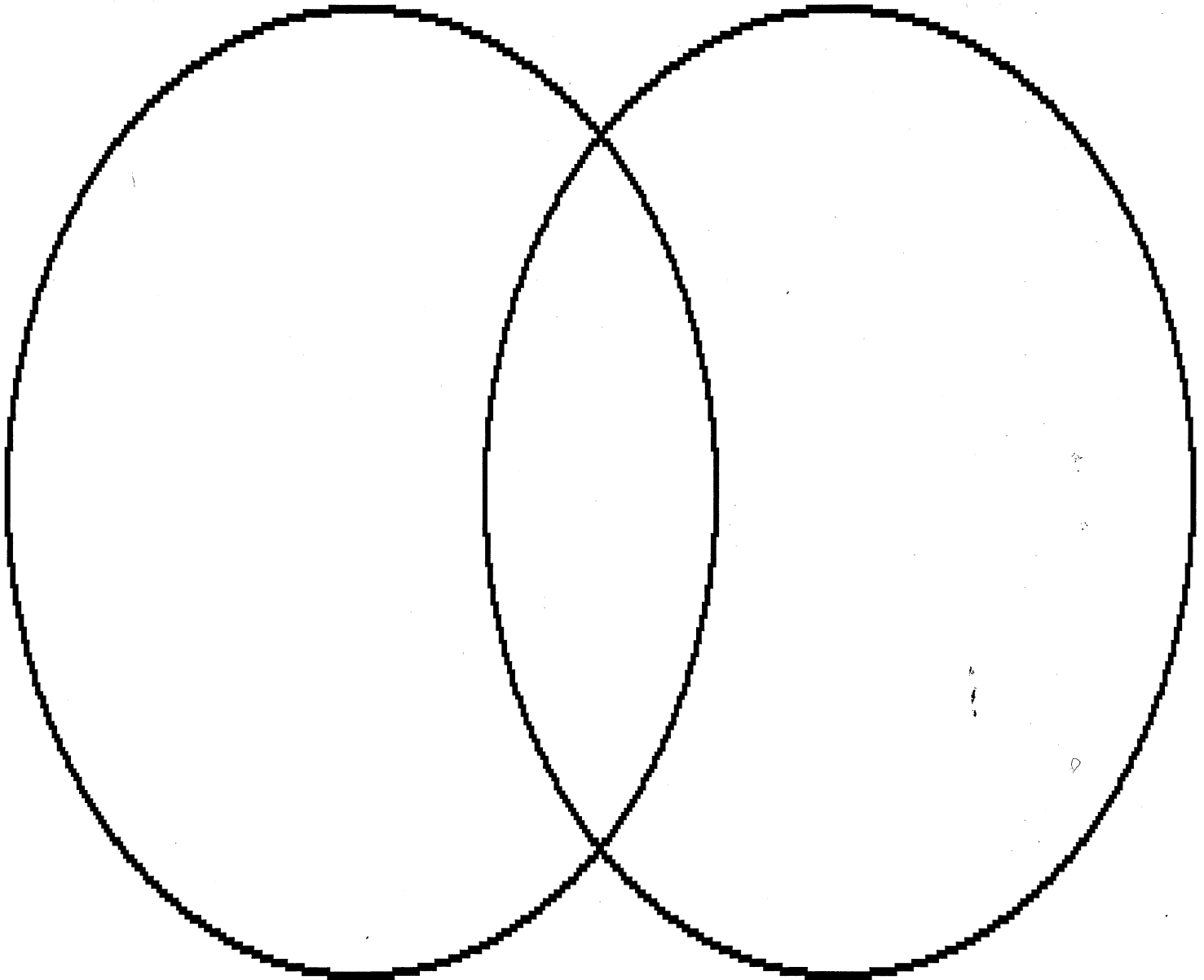


## Compare and Contrast

**Research** two important leaders during the Crusades, Richard I of England (also known as Richard the Lionheart) and Saladin (also known as Salah al-Din). **Compare** and **contrast** the lives and accomplishments of these two leaders using the Venn diagram below.

**Richard I**

**Saladin**



# Extension: Writing About the Crusades

**Part I:** Choose one of the following writing activities below to complete. Circle the number of the activity you choose. You can use today's text, your textbook – pages 685-690, or online research to complete your task!

## Option 1:

You are a knight who has just returned to Europe after the Crusades in the Holy Land. **Compose** a one-page letter to the Pope to **describe** your experience during the Crusades. **Explain** why you think the Crusades were good or bad for you and for the world. **Tell** the Pope why you would or would not participate in the Crusades again. Include specific details and examples to support your points.

## Option 2:

You are a Jew who has survived an attack by the Crusaders. **Compose** a one-page fictional journal entry to **describe** the attack on your community. **Explain** how you survived the attack and how the attack has affected you and your community. Include specific details and examples to support your points.

## Option 3:

You are a Muslim fighter who is journeying home after defending the Holy Lands against European Crusaders. **Compose** a one-page letter to your family to **describe** your experiences in battle. **Explain** how the Crusades have affected you and the Muslim community you defended. Include specific details and examples to support your points.

**Part II:** Pre-write your assignment in the space provided below.

