England and the Crusades

**The Growth of the Islamic Empire**

The Islamic Empire was able to grow for these reasons; they had 1 **Caliphate**, they were tolerant of other religions, there was a common language (Arabic). The Islamic Empire also had many peaceful interactions with the Christian world through; pilgrimages and trade.

**The First Crusade**

The **First Crusade** happened because Jerusalem was an important city for 3 main religions (Islam, Judaism and Christianity) also the war between the Sunni and Shai meant that pilgrims could not get to the Holy Land. The Pope declared this a *‘holy war’* stating it was Gods will and that all those who helped sins would be removed. The **First Crusade** split into 2. One was the *People’s Crusade* which failed due to being made up off untrained peasants and the *Princes’ Crusade* which was made up of Princes from Germany, France, England and Italy. Because of the Sunni-Shia split the Islamic Empire could not send a full army to fight the *Princes’ Crusade.* After 6 months the Crusader force surrounded Jerusalem and captured it.

**The Third Crusade**

The **Third Crusade** happened because the **Saladin** became the Sultan of Egypt. He then united all Muslims of Syria together. Following this he made his way to the Christian Kingdom of **Jerusalem.** The Christians and the Muslims fought at the *Battle of Hattin* where **Saladin** won. This crusade was known as the *Kings Crusades* because many Western European leaders and nobles (**Richard I** and **Philip**) joined. In 1191 the English and French joined forces and captured *Acre*. The **Third Crusade** ended when **Richard I** and **Saladin** reached a peace treaty which said: *“Christians were allowed to visit Jerusalem without paying tribute and that they would have access to Holy Places.”* **Richard I** accepted this but it meant he had failed to capture Jerusalem for the Christians.

**Key Events**

* 632 AD death of prophet Muhammed
* 632-661 AD Rashidun Caliphate grows across Arabia, Asia and North Africa
* 661 AD Sunni-Shia split
* 661-750 AD Umayyad Caliphate grows and spreads Islam into Europe
* 750-1250 AD Abbasid Caliphate
* 1081 AD an aggressive group moved towards Europe. The Seljuk Turks began to attack Byzantine (Christians)

**Key Individuals**

**Sunni** – Branch of Islam that believes the first 4 caliphs are true successors to Muhammed

**Shia** – Branch of Islam that believes that Ali and the Imams are true successors to Muhammed

**Caliphate** – Title given to a religious leader

**Richard I** - King of England 1189 - 1199

**Saladin** – Sultan of Egypt 1174 - 1193

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**Crusader States**

The knights Templar protected the Holy Land and were supported by the Pope. They set up docks across the Holy Land and used money to build castles, ships and to buy weapons. Unfortunately, there was problems such as; outnumbered by the local population, language barrios (knights spoke French and the local people spoke Arabic) and that crusaders states started to become rivals to one another.

**County of Edessa**

This was the first crusader state and the leader was Baldwin of Boulogne

**Kingdom of Jerusalem**

This was the most important and leader of all the Crusader states. It was led by Godfrey of Bouillon

**Principality of Antioch**

This state had the best relationship with the Byzantine Empire so was mainly Christians and its leader was Bortiemund of Normandy

**County of Tripoli**

This had the most important ports as it was connected to Europe and its leader was Raymond of Talase

**How has the Crusades impact today?**

The crusades have gone in history as a religious war but because it caused different cultures to interact this has had an impact on the world that we live in today. Both religions and cultures experienced new trade of food and clothing that has paved the way for our trade networks today. But the biggest impact the crusades has had is on Western education as the Islamic Empire was years ahead. After the crusades the Western world began to explore and question the world around them, bringing them out of the *Dark Ages.* Scientific and mathematical developments began to take place with even some of the numbers we use today originating from the Islamic world. As well as this Islamic architecture began to become popular in the Western world.

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