

## First Crusade Lesson Plan

### Central Historical Question:

*What happened when Crusaders entered Jerusalem during the First Crusade?*

### Materials:

- First Crusade PowerPoint
- Copies of Documents A-C
- Copies of Reading Guide

### Plan of Instruction:

1. Introduction: Use PowerPoint slides to review or help establish background information on the First Crusade.
  - a. Highlight:
    - i. Slide 2: *In 1095, Byzantine Emperor Alexios I contacted Pope Urban II about the threat of Turkish armies against Constantinople and the Fatimid Muslim's control of Jerusalem. In November, 1095 at the Council of Clarendon, Pope Urban II called for a crusade against the Muslim Turks.*
    - ii. Slide 3: *Large numbers of nobles, knights, and peasants responded to Urban II's call. In 1096, crusading armies set out to Constantinople.*
    - iii. Slide 4: *Prior to the Crusades, there was infighting between Sunni Seljuk Turks, who had conquered a lot of land and the Shi'ite Fatimid Caliphate. In 1096, just before the First Crusade, the Fatimids captured Jerusalem from the Seljuk Turks. Knowing the Crusaders were coming, the Fatimids expelled all Christians from Jerusalem.*
    - iv. Slide 5: *Between 1096 and 1099, several major battles between Crusader armies and Turkish forces took place. In the summer of 1099, most of the crusading armies arrived at the gates of Jerusalem. After a failed attempt to besiege the city, the army broke through the city walls on July 15. They captured the city after a costly battle that some estimate involved 100,000 casualties.*
    - v. Slide 6: *Map of the First Crusade.*  
This map shows the routes of the first four crusades. The route of the First Crusade is represented with the red line.
    - vi. Slide 7: *Christians believed they were fighting the Crusades in the name of Jesus to take back the place of his birth from infidels. Muslims believed they were defending land that was theirs. From their perspective, Christians were brutal invaders.*
    - vii. Slide 8: Introduce the historical question. *Today, we will look at 3*

*documents written from Christian and Muslim perspectives to investigate the question: What happened when Crusaders captured Jerusalem during the First Crusade?*

2. Introduce/review skills of sourcing and corroboration. Points to highlight:
  - a. *Historians create historical accounts, in part, by comparing multiple documents and perspectives of different people. Focusing on perspective is important because it helps evaluate possible biases and the trustworthiness or reliability of a document.*
  - b. *Checking the source information on a document is a good place to begin evaluating perspective. Before reading, ask yourself: Who wrote this document? When was it written? What type of document is it? Based on this information, see if you can go even further by trying to determine why the document was written, and make a prediction on what the document might be about.*
  - c. *While reading the document you can continue analyzing perspective. Pay close attention to the author's argument or narrative and the words and phrases they use to make their argument or describe their version of history. Ask yourself: How does this document make me feel about this topic? What words or phrases does the author use to describe people and events?*
  - d. *Our task today is to compare and contrast 3 documents from the First Crusade, and in particular the capture of Jerusalem. You are going to explore different perspectives on this event while considering what happened when the Crusaders captured Jerusalem.*
3. Pass out Document A along with Reading Guide.
  - a. Highlight the document's source to establish when, where, and by whom this document was created.
  - b. Ask students to predict what Raymond d'Augiliers might say about the capture of Jerusalem.
  - c. Students read the document. While they read, students underline words and phrases that make them think this document is written from a Christian Crusader's perspective.
  - d. Share out what students underlined.
4. Pass out Document B.
  - a. Highlight the document's source to establish when, where, and by whom this document was created.
  - b. Ask students to predict what Ibn al-Athir might say about the capture of Jerusalem.
  - c. Students read the document. While they read, students underline words and phrases that make them think this document is written from the

Muslim perspective.

d. Share out what students underlined.

5. Corroboration

- a. Students identify 1-2 similarities and 1-2 differences between the 2 documents
- b. Share out.

6. Pass out Document C. Explain to students that they are going to read a third document without any source information. Their task is to read the document, consider how it compares to the others and try to determine if the document comes from a Muslim or Christian writer.

- a. Students read document and underline words, phrases, or sentences that might indicate the perspective of this document.
- b. Students draw on evidence from all 3 documents to decide if Document C is more similar to Document A or B.
- c. Students draw from evidence in the document to decide if it is written from a Muslim, or Christian perspective.
- d. Share out answers.
- e. Share with students the source information of Document C (final slide in the PowerPoint).

*This document is from the French chaplain Fulcher of Chartres, a Christian, who participated in and wrote first-hand accounts of the First Crusade. In this excerpt, written sometime between 1100 and his death in 1127, he describes the Crusaders taking Jerusalem.*

7. Discussion

- a. Based on these sources, what happened when Crusaders entered Jerusalem during the First Crusade?
- b. What are the primary similarities and differences of these documents?
- c. Are these trustworthy accounts? Why or why not?
- d. What other primary source documents might you read to better answer today's historical question?

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Citations

Document A

Raymond d'Aguiliers, "The Siege and Capture of Jerusalem," in *The First Crusade: The Accounts of Eyewitnesses and Participants*, ed. August. C. Krey (Princeton: 1921), 257-62.

Document B

Ibn Al-Thir, "The Franks Conquer Jerusalem," in *Arab Historians of the Crusades*, Francesco Gabrieli, translated by E.J. Costello (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969), 10-11.

Document C

Fulk (or Fulcher) of Chartres. (?1100-1127). Gesta Francorum Jerusalem Expugnantium [The Deeds of the Franks Who Attacked Jerusalem], in *Parallel Source Problems in Medieval History*, eds. Frederic Dunclaf, F. and August Krey (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1912), 109-115. Retrieved October 16, 2012, from: <http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/source/fulk2.asp>