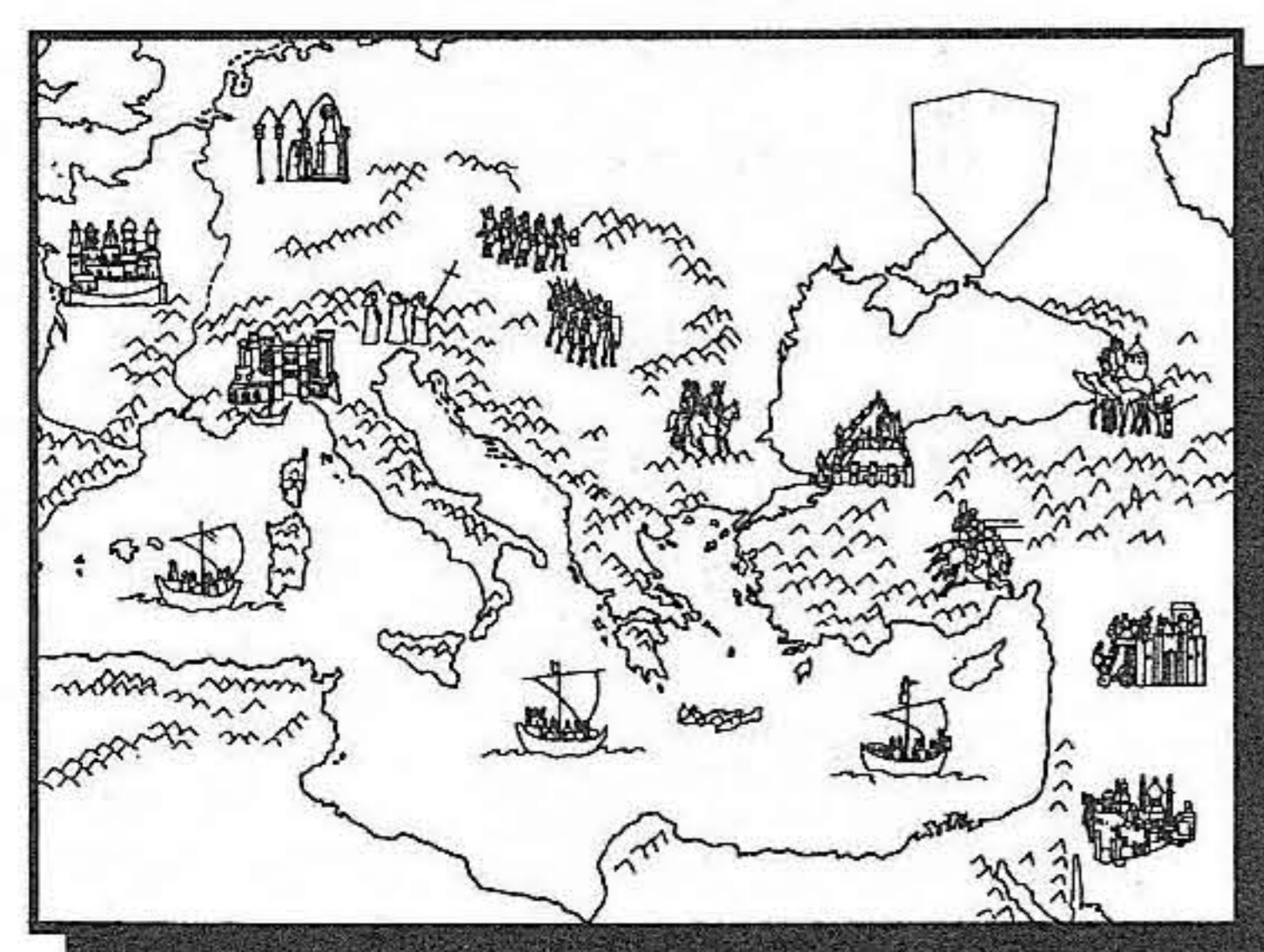


Teacher's Guide



Transparency 4.1A: The Quest for the Holy Land

Describe the people and buildings you see. Where do you think the people are going? What are some different ways these people could get to Jerusalem? What kinds of challenges might confront these people as they make their journey? Why might so many people be trying to get to Jerusalem? What else does this map tell you about the Crusades?

- ❑ **In this transparency** we see a map illustrating armies from the western Christian world marching toward the Holy Land during the Crusades.
- The Crusades were a series of eight Christian military expeditions from western Europe conducted between the years of 1096 to 1270. They were organized mainly to recapture Palestine, and the holy city of Jerusalem. The word “crusade” comes from the Latin word *crux*, meaning cross. “To take up the cross” meant to become a crusader. To identify themselves, Christians sewed symbols of the cross of Christ onto their clothing before going into battle.
- Proclaimed as divinely sacred by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Jerusalem has enjoyed a special religious importance since Biblical times. It is the destination of pilgrimages for all three religions, as well as a cultural mother-figure and eternal spiritual home.
- The Second Isaiah prophesied, “Ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” He told of a future where everyone would be united in Jerusalem as one holy people, sanctified by God. In Hebrew, the city’s name means “City of Peace.” For Muslims, Jerusalem is Al Quds, Arabic for “The Place of Sacredness.” Yet the city’s history has always been one of contradictory claims among the three religions against one another.
- The Jewish claim to Jerusalem uses the Torah, the Old Testament of the Bible, as the Christians call it. There, in Genesis 13: 14-15, the scripture reads: “The Lord said to Abraham after Lot had parted from him: ‘Lift up your eyes from where you are and look North and South, East and West. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.’” It was to Jerusalem that King David brought the ark containing the original Torah. And it was in Jerusalem that God commanded King Solomon to build the Bet HaMikdash, the original Temple. Jerusalem is the site where the Messiah will appear on the Day to End All Days. According to Jewish tradition, at this time all the dead Jews will crawl through tunnels in the earth to return to Jerusalem. Every year on Passover, the holiday that commemorates the Jewish exodus from Egypt, Jews all over the world end the service by saying “L’Shana HaBahah Be’rushalaim,” “Next year in Jerusalem.” According to the hazal, the ancient rabbis of Zion, “Ten measures of beauty were given to the world by God, nine of them to Jerusalem. He who has not seen Jerusalem in all its glory, has not seen a beautiful city.”

- For Christians, Jerusalem is the site of Jesus life and preaching, as well as his death, reappearance before ascending to heaven, and resurrection. Jesus was born in the nearby city of Bethlehem, and He was executed on a hill called Golgotha, just outside Jerusalem's walls. The city was home to the original cross and sacred stone of Christ's tomb. It remains the home of the sacred shrine of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as over fifty Christian shrines, including those representing Roman Catholic, Armenian, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, and Coptic Christian traditions. According to Christian tradition, Jesus mourned for Jerusalem and predicted the destruction of Solomon's Temple.
- The importance of the city to Muslims derives from similar origins. According to the Qur'an (and the Bible), both the Jews and the Arabs are descendants of Abraham. The Israelite people are the descendents of Abraham's son, Isaac (by his wife, Sarah), while the Arabs are the descendents of Abraham's son, Ishmael (by Abraham's second wife, Hajra). Thus God's decree of giving the Holy Land to Abraham is meant equally for the Arabs, who became the first Muslims. In addition, Jerusalem is the site of Muhammad's ascending into heaven to meet God. Chapter 17: I of the Koran reads: "Glory be to Him who did take His servant [Muhammad] by night from the Holy Mosque [at Mecca] to the Farthest Mosque [al-Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem], the precincts of which We have blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs"(Ali).