

Crusades Simulation Board Game



Crusades Board Game



Paris

Rome

Constantinople

Baghdad

Jerusalem

Introduction Phase: Background

Introduction Phase: Background Europeans

Europe:

- Europe has emerged from the “Dark Ages” but is still far behind the wealth, technology, and intellectual prowess of the Middle East and parts of Asia.

Middle East:

- The Abbasid Caliphate has lost much of its grandeur. Yet, still they are intellectually and scientifically ahead the Europeans. Yet, it is now marked by a disunity that has curbed the military power of the region.
- The Seljuk Turks, Turkish Muslims, are the faction that hold most of the control in the region (including the Holy Land).

Holy Land:

- Jerusalem had been under the control of Muslims for several centuries, but for many years Christians from Europe had been allowed to travel freely to the city to make pilgrimages to the holy sites.
- In 1071 a new Muslim group called the Seljuk Turks took control of the city. The Seljuks began to harass Christian pilgrims and to damage the sacred places. They also tried to extend their power by attacking the Byzantine Empire.
- The Byzantine emperor, Alexius Comnenus, feared that the Seljuks would attack Constantinople. He sent an appeal for help to Pope Urban II at Rome.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Place your board piece on Paris.
 - Collect 10 coins from the bank. (Europeans have wealth, but not nearly as much as your Turkish neighbors.)

Introduction Phase: Background Turks

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Middle East:

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- The Byzantine emperor, Alexius Comnenus, feared that the Seljuks would attack Constantinople. He sent an appeal for help to Pope Urban II at Rome.
- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Place your board piece on Jerusalem.
 - Collect 17 coins from the bank. (Due to the high degree of trade and contact with Asia, you are loaded!☺)

Intro. Phase: Jerusalem

- Concentrated in only a few hundred feet are **Al-Aqsa Mosque (the Dome of the Rock is included in this area)**, **Holy Sepulcher**, and **Wailing Wall**.
- The Prophet Muhammad made a miraculous Night Journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and to the Seven Heavens on a white flying horse. During his interval in Jerusalem, the Prophet stopped to pray at the rock (now the site of the **Dome of the Rock** and **Al-Aqsa Mosque**) and was given the commandment to pray five times a day.
 - The **Holy Sepulcher**, the Sacred Tomb, is one of the most important shrines in the Christian world. On the grounds of the Holy Sepulcher it is believed that Jesus Christ was crucified, buried and rose from the dead.
 - **Western Wall or the Wailing Wall** is believed to be a large segment of the wall of the Western side of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed by Emperor Vespasian in 70 CE. Jews come here from all over the world to mourn the destruction of their Temple.



Phase 1: 1st Crusade

Phase 1: 1st Crusade—1096 to 1099 Europeans

- 1095—Pope Urban II Calls the Crusades—read the Pope's speech aloud to the group.
- European knights and princes marched and sailed by various routes toward Jerusalem. After several weeks of struggle, they captured Jerusalem on July 15, 1099. Then they engaged in a shameful massacre of the Turks.
- **Impact on Europeans:** Most of the crusaders soon returned home, while those who stayed built castles and created special orders of knighthood to protect the Holy Land. They called this territory "the Crusader States."
- **Impact on Turks:** In Jerusalem, the Christians sacked the cities and massacred the Muslim and Jewish defenders alike (the 2 religious groups had united to fight a common enemy).
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Move your board piece to the city of Jerusalem. You achieved your goal! ♠
 - Collect 7 coins from the Turks.

Phase 1: 1st Crusade—1096 to 1099 Turks

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- **Impact on Europeans:** Most of the crusaders soon returned home, while those who stayed built castles and created special orders of knighthood to protect the Holy Land. They called this territory "the Crusader States."
- **Impact on Turks:** In both Antioch and Jerusalem, the Christians sacked the cities and massacred the Muslim and Jewish defenders alike (the 2 religious groups had united to fight a common enemy).
- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Move your board piece to the Baghdad. You have lost all control over Jerusalem in the bloody battle and return defeated.

Phase 1: 1st Crusade

Pope Urban II's Speech in Clermont, France—1095

“For your brethren who live in the east are in urgent need of your help and you must hasten to give them the aid...Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory... The have killed and captured many and have destroyed the churches... I beseech you as Christ’s heralds to persuade all people of whatever rank foot soldier and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race... All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins.”

- He urges Christians to take back Jerusalem and the holy places and to come to the aid of pilgrims. His speech has a strong effect on everyone who heard it—clergy, knights, and common people. “God wills it!” becomes their battle cry.



Phase 2: 2nd Crusade

Phase 2: 2nd Crusade—1145 to 1149 Europeans

- The Crusaders' states are extremely vulnerable to Muslim counterattack. In 1144, Edessa is reconquered by the Turks. The Second Crusade is organized to recapture the city. But its armies straggle home in defeat.
- The Muslim ruler Saladin (Salah Al-Din), a great military leader, conquers Jerusalem in 1187. He refuses to massacre the Christians as they had done to the city's Muslim and Jewish citizens ninety years previously and allows them to leave the city peacefully.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Move your board piece back to Paris. You are completely defeated.

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- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Move your board piece back to Jerusalem. You have won back the territory! Victory is yours.
 - Take 8 coins from the Europeans.

Phase 2: 2nd Crusade

Abu Sa'ad al Harawi (a quadi which means judge)

“How dare you slumber in the shade of complacent safety, leading lives of frivolous as garden flowers, while your brothers in Syria have no dwelling place save the saddles of camels and the bellies of the vultures? Blood has been spilled! Beautiful young girls have been shamed, and must now hid their sweet faces in their hands! Shall the valorous Arabs resign themselves to insult, and the valiant Persians accept dishonor? Never have the Muslims been so humiliated. Never have their lands been so savagely devastated.”

- Al Harawi gave this speech after the fall of Jerusalem to the Christians, wearing no turban, his head shaved as a sign of mourning. He cried loudly into the spacious audience hall of the caliph in 1099 in Baghdad.



Phase 3: 3rd Crusade

Phase 3: 3rd Crusade—1189 to 1192 Europeans

- As a result of losing the Holy Lands, the Europeans start the Third Crusade. This Crusade is led by three kings- Richard the Lion-Hearted of England, Philip Augustus of France, and Frederick Barbarossa of Germany.
- Frederick drowns along the way in 1190, after which most of his troops turn back.
- Richard and Philip are still able to capture the city of Acre in the Holy Land. But they cannot recapture Jerusalem.
- Instead, Richard negotiates a truce with Saladin in 1192. It permits pilgrims to visit the holy places.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Place your game piece in Rome. (The truce is a good sign for you, but you would still like to regain Jerusalem.)

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- Instead, Richard negotiates a truce with Saladin in 1192. It permits pilgrims to visit the holy places.
- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Place your game piece in Jerusalem.
 - Since you were able to stop them from taking the city, collect 2 coins from the Europeans.

Phase 4: 4th Crusade

Phase 4: 4th Crusade—1202-1204 Europeans

- The Fourth Crusade, which started in 1202, turned away from its original purpose. Egypt—a new Muslim power center—was supposed to have been the target. However, the way to Egypt passed through the port of Venice on the Mediterranean Sea. The Venetians were more concerned with profit than religion.
- Under their influence, the crusaders forgot about Egypt. Instead they decided to impose their own rule on Constantinople. They attacked the city and took it over in 1203 and looted it in 1204, against the wishes of the pope.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Move your board piece to the city of Constantinople.
 - Collect 3 coins from the bank.

Phase 4: 4th Crusade—1202-1204 Turks

- The Fourth Crusade, which started in 1202, turned away from its original purpose. Egypt—a new Muslim power center—was supposed to have been the target. However, the way to Egypt passed through the port of Venice on the Mediterranean Sea. The Venetians were more concerned with profit than religion.
- Under their influence, the crusaders forgot about Egypt. Instead they decided to impose their own rule on Constantinople. They attacked the city and took it over in 1203 and looted it in 1204, against the wishes of the pope.
- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Your board pieces remain in Jerusalem and in Baghdad. (You think these Europeans are a bit crazy at this point.)

Phase 5: Children's Crusades

Phase 5: Children's Crusades—1212 Europeans

- The spirit of the holy war affects children as well as adults. Two separate bands of children set out to free the Holy Land in 1212.
- The first is led by a French shepherd boy named Stephen who believes God told him to lead a crusade. As many as 30,000 children follow him to the southern coast of France. Some are taken to Egypt by dishonest merchants and sold into slavery. Others die in shipwrecks.
- A German boy named Nicholas leads another large band of children across the Alps into Italy. A few of them make it to Rome and are told by the pope to go home. Many others are taken by slave traders.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Your board piece is now dead. Please remove it from the board.
 - Give 3 coins back to the bank for the loss of European children's lives.

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- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Your board pieces remains in Jerusalem and in Baghdad. (It is confirmed: these Europeans are crazy.)

Phase 6: Results of the Crusades

Phase 6: Results of the Crusades Europeans

Results for Europeans:

- Trade: In Europe, the Crusades stimulated trade. New foods and spices appeared on European tables, and new textiles appeared at markets. (Examples: Persian rugs, Chinese silks, Indian cotton textiles, tapestries, precious stones, perfumes, spices, pearls, ivory)
- Travel: Europeans learned of new ways to build and sail ships and how to make and use magnetic compasses.
- Cultural gains: Europeans were introduced to other cultures (Middle Eastern, Indian, & Chinese) from which they had much to learn, especially in the fields of architecture, medicine, science, and warfare (gained knowledge of Damascus sword & catapult).
- Feudalism died out in Europe: The authority of the king increased due to the fact that many nobles died in battle without leaving an heir in which case the king got their land.

Results for Turks:

- On the whole, the people of the Middle East considered the Crusades more of an irritant than an existential threat. They were more concerned with threats from the Mongols.
- **Actions for Europeans:**
 - Put your game piece back on the board. You have gained so much from these cultures that you are revived –brought back to life (it will lead to the European age of Exploration and the Renaissance).
 - Take 5 coins from the Turks since you gained so much knowledge from them.

Phase 6: Results of the Crusades

Turks

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- Cultural gains: Europeans were introduced to other cultures (Middle Eastern, Indian, & Chinese) from which they had much to learn, especially in the fields of architecture, medicine, science, and warfare (gained knowledge of Damascus sword & catapult).
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Results for Turks:

- On the whole, the people of the Middle East considered the Crusades more of an irritant than an existential threat. They were more concerned with threats from the Mongols.
- **Actions for Turks:**
 - Your game piece s remain on the board, but turn the to face the east since you are so concerned with the Mongols approaching.