

Mr. Hartong

World History

Late Medieval Unit

Economic Impact of the Crusades

Objectives: 1. Discuss how the variability in the distribution of productive resources in the various regions of the world contributed to specialization, trade, and interdependence. 2. Explain how the growth of cities and empires fostered the growth of markets and describe how market exchanges encouraged specialization and the transition from barter to monetary economies. 3. Determine the central ideas from a secondary source while integrating information in a visual format.

The following passage and questions are adapted from Holt, Rinehart, and Winston World History workbook.

Reading focus: As you read, compare what life was like in Europe before and after the Crusades.

1. The period of the Crusades lasted 196 years, but of these, only 24 were spent fighting. As a result, there was a great deal of time in which there was non-violent contact. This contact caused widespread economic change in Europe.
2. The first result of the contact was increased trade between Europe and the Middle East. Europeans obtained new foods and household goods. Items such as rice, coffee, spices, and new fruits were introduced to European palates. Making life easier in European households were goods such as mirrors, cotton cloth, and wheelbarrows. Muslims, in turn, were introduced to such items as linen and wool.
3. Tangible items were not the only goods exchanged between Europe and the Arab lands, however. Europeans learned new forms of recreation, such as the game of chess. In addition, Arabs gave Europeans a new number system, algebra, and chemistry. The Eastern windmills and irrigation ditches, both of which improved farming, were also introduced to Europe through the Crusades. European sailors began to use the Arabic compass, astrolabe, and quadrant to find better sea routes for their journeys. Eventually, this led to the discovery of the New World.
4. This heightened level of trade led to the population explosion of cities and towns. Among the cities especially affected were the Italian city-states. As the need to collect and distribute goods increased, cities along the coasts of the Italian peninsula became the centers of a new trading empire. This increase in trade, along with the use of trade fairs, broke the isolation of self-sufficient manors, and feudalism was weakened.
5. The Crusaders had to carry money with them, so the use of gold coins and letters of credit also grew. To finance the Crusades, the wealthy were taxed, and serfs were allowed to buy their freedom and sometimes their land. Many of these free farmers moved to the new trade cities and the population of towns grew rapidly weakening feudalism and manor life as well.

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage and your completed chart.

1. How did the Crusades weaken feudalism? (p4, 5)

2. How did the population of Europe change as a result of the Crusades? (p4, 5)

3. What new foods did Europeans obtain as a result of the Crusades? What new household items were Europeans introduced to? (p2, 3)

4. How did the Crusades influence the discovery of the “New World” (a term used to describe North and South America which was a “new” discovery to the Europeans of the time)? (p3)

Directions: Use the information in the passage to fill in the graphic organizer. You’ll need to open the graphic organizer by going back to your Google Classroom and clicking on the separate drawing. You will not be able to manipulate the image below.

