



Timeline of Key Events

Key event Timeline	
1054	The Great Schism of 1054 was the breakup of the Christian church into two sections—the Western and the Eastern sections. These two sections were the Roman Catholic Church (west) and the Eastern Orthodox Church (east). It happened because the religious tensions finally exploded in Constantinople.
1095	Pope Urban II speaks in Clermont, France. His speech launches the First Crusade. He speaks 'as a messenger from God'. He talks of how Muslims had attacked and destroyed the Byzantine Empire's (Eastern Christian) people and churches. He calls on people to take back Jerusalem and that if they die on this journey, all of their sins will be forgiven. Historians have said there are other motives such as power, economic and social at play, not just religious.
1096-99	The First Crusade: First an army of peasants led by Peter the Hermit (a French priest and key leader of the Crusades) set off for the Holy Land. They were massacred by the Turks. An army of knights followed, led by Godfrey of Bouillon (Frankish knight and another leader of the first Crusades), which massacred Muslims and captured Jerusalem in 1099. The Crusaders massacred the Muslims until, it was said, the streets ran red with blood.
1145-49	Second Crusade: King Louis VII of France invaded the Holy Land, but was defeated at Damascus.
1189-92	Third crusade: In 1187, the Muslim ruler Saladin had recaptured Jerusalem. The Crusaders (who included King Richard I of England) captured the port of Acre. But they quarreled, and failed to capture Jerusalem. On the way home, Richard was kidnapped and held ransom until February 1194 when the English paid for his release.
1202-1204	Fourth Crusade: The Pope wanted to unite western and eastern Christians under his authority. He diverted this Crusade, with the help of Venice, and captured Constantinople in 1204. Christians fought Christians.
1217-1250	The children's crusade: The An army of young people set off on Crusade. They were kidnapped and sold as slaves.
1396	The last crusade: An army of French and Hungarian knights were massacred. Some historians refer to it as the 'last' Crusade.

Selected key words and definitions	
Crusade	A military campaign with the aim of capturing or defending Jerusalem and the Holy Land
Saracen	A non Christian fighter
Just War	A war that meets specific criteria
Pilgrimage	A journey to a Holy place
Papacy	The office of the Pope
Schism	Split between the Catholic and Orthodox church
Excommunication	To be expelled (removed) from the Catholic church
Peasant	a Laborer (often framing) during the middle ages
Holy Land	The area surrounding Jerusalem
Devotion	Religious commitment

Why did people go on Crusade?

- To obey the Pope's call.
- To gain wealth
- To get land overseas
- To see the world, have an adventure and prove their bravery
- To get forgiveness for past sins
- Peasants (who belonged to their Lord) were promised freedom if they went on Crusade

Motives were individual. Many went for multiple reasons and it is the job of the historian to examine the evidence and understand the different motives!

