



## Summer Assignment World History I (9th Grade)

**Academic Integrity:** All work should be completed independently and without the assistance of unapproved resources. Any work violating academic integrity will be subject to a “0” and any additional consequences as outlined in the Knox Academic Integrity Policy attached to this assignment.

**Due Date:** Your work is due the first day of your World History I class. All late work will be subjected to a grade reduction or penalty as outlined in the course syllabus and copied below:

*All major assignments not submitted on the due date will face a 10% deduction of max points per day for up to five (5) days and up to a 50% deduction.*

*Summer Assignments for AP Classes that are not submitted on time will result in the student being dropped from the course.*

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this assignment, please contact the History Department Chair, Mrs. Mandia, at [kmandia@knoxschool.org](mailto:kmandia@knoxschool.org) or the Dean of Academics, Mrs. Pergola, at [dpergola@knoxschool.org](mailto:dpergola@knoxschool.org).

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**Name:**

Mr. McCormick

Grade 9 World History

Date:

### **Military Combatants: The Templars**



## *Templars charging into battle*

**Who were the Templars?** The Templars were one of the most famous groups of knights that fought during the Crusades era. This order of knights was founded in 1119 and their main headquarters was on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The foundation was created following the end of the First Crusade. The red cross on their uniforms and shields symbolized the blood Jesus Christ had shed for humanity. Initially, the Templars were founded as a bodyguard group to protect pilgrims making the trip to Jerusalem (The Holy Land). However, as the years progressed, the Templars found themselves more immersed (involved) into a military role.

*Not to us, O lord, not to us, but your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness”* - Psalm commonly chanted by the Templars before heading into battle against the Islamic armies

As mentioned, the Templars first originated following the end of the First Crusade, in which armies from Europe seized control of Jerusalem from the Islamic army currently occupying it. The inhabitants of the holy site were killed and valuables were stolen by the Christian knights. In one occasion, Greek Orthodox priests were tortured into revealing the locations of holy relics (objects). In particular, one relic was a piece from the cross Jesus had died upon.

When the Christian control of Jerusalem began, hordes of worshippers flocked (traveled) to the holy site. Also commonly known as a “pilgrimage”, these worshippers traveled for countless miles. The path to the holy site was not defended or protected by the Christian armies. As a result, bandits would attack pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem, either killing them or taking them as prisoner to sell into slavery. The Templars would become defenders of these travelers and safeguard them from attacks.

One of the most horrific events that would highlight the brutality of the Crusades occurred in 1119 (the same year the Templar knights were founded). About 700 hundred worshippers, after witnessing a miracle, made their way towards the river of Jordan to bathe and thank god for witnessing the miracle. However, the travelers never made it. Hordes of **Saracens (The term used by Christians to describe Arabs/Muslims)** slaughtered the unarmed worshippers. Most of the 700 were killed while the others were taken into captivity.

Almost a year following their creation, the knights of the temple would be recognized. The order’s numbers in the beginning were low and in order for them to be successful, the leadership needed to recruit more members and secure funding. By the time before the second

crusade, the Templars had become wealthy and were designated with significant tasks, such as protecting important Christian territories that were in close proximity to Muslim held areas.

Before the start of the second crusade, the Templars were residing in Paris, awaiting the development of their house. Pope Eugene III and King Louis VII had been meeting together. During these talks, the Pope was determined to call upon another crusade, since significant territories previously occupied by Christian armies had been lost in battle. King Louis VII was proud to support the pope's decision. In 1145, Pope Eugene III issued his declaration of a second crusade which was not only supported by King Louis VII but also Conrad III (the German king). This is significant because at the time, these two leaders were very influential in the European world. Between 1145-1147, prominent figures attempted to persuade warriors from all over to join the crusade.

In June of 1147, the Christian armies mobilized and began their journey. The French and German armies both marched through Constantinople and into Asia Minor. The Templar knights accompanying King Louis VII's troops were led by Everard of Barres. The events that took place at Mount Cadmus demonstrated the combat experience gap between the Templars and the regular French troops. The army was divided into three groups. The rear guard stayed behind at the top of the mountain with the supplies and the group in the front marched down the mountain to establish a camp at the bottom. The problem: A Turkish army had been shadowing every step and the rear guard was mostly unarmed. The Turks attacked, resulting in a massacre of many of the servants and pilgrims who were in the rear guard. King Louis and a group of soldiers returned to repel the attackers. Despite the odds, the Templars assisted the other christian knights and managed to minimize the damage. However, a change needed to take place within the military leadership or the crusaders faced severe consequences.

King Louis VII placed full and total military control in the hands of the Templars, which was an unprecedented move. After witnessing the Templars stand their ground and carefully preserve their food supplies, it was believed that this was the correct move in preventing future humiliating situations like Mount Cadmus. One of the tremendous differences between the Templars and their fellow crusaders was that while some fled and broke ranks, the Templars fought on. Under Templar leadership, the other soldiers held an oath to hold their positions in combat as ordered or retreat to cover as ordered. King Louis VII praised the passion and combat ability of the Templars, hoping this attitude would be carried out by his troops as well.

The Templars taught the king's troops simple military guidelines such as following officers' orders and strategic positioning on the battlefield. It was quite concerning that Louis VII's soldiers were unaware of the most basic military techniques. This inability would contribute to many of the defeats the crusaders would experience.

The Battle of Adalia was another highlight of the Templars' fight/role during the second crusade. Prior to the battle, the conditions were horrid. Starvation and disease was rampant within the crusader camp. Snow and storms prevented the crusaders from exiting the area by ship. The Turkish armies launched three separate attacks against the crusaders in an attempt to weaken the defenders. However, they were unsuccessful and the crusaders held their position well into spring.

Debate took place within the crusader camp of whether to trek the forty miles on foot to Syria or using ships to carry them to Antioch. The people living within Adalia, particularly those with ships, wanted a large sum in order to accommodate the needs of the crusaders. King Louis decided to pay the sum and was aboard the first set of ships to disembark from Adalia. While others made it onto ships or attempted to march back, a number decided to give up on the crusade and in exchange for safe passage through Asia Minor, became prisoners of the Turks.

As we saw, the second crusade was a failure for multiple reasons. However, the Templars played a critical role in not only assisting the other armies but from a leadership standpoint. As the crusades would progress, the Templars would become one of the most influential and accomplished units of the crusader armies.

1. Describe the origins of the Templars. Initially, what was their role?
2. Interpret the Psalm the Templars would chant before going into battle. What do you think it means?
3. Using the reading, summarize the first crusade and its aftermath.
4. Describe the horrific event that took place during the same year in which the Templars originated. Do you believe this act contributed to the creation/purpose of the Templars?

