



The Crusades

Why did people go on the Crusades?

Evidence A What the Pope said

The Muslims have destroyed the churches of God or taken them for their own religion. Jerusalem is now held captive by the enemies of Christ. He who makes this holy pilgrimage shall wear the sign of the cross of the Lord. If you are killed your sins will be pardoned.

Evidence B What a French crusader wrote to his wife

My dear wife, I now have twice as much silver, gold and other riches as I had when I set off on this crusade...

Evidence C What another crusader said to his wife

Alas, my darling! It breaks my heart to leave you, but I must go to the Holy land. This is where I will win paradise and praise and your true love...

TASKS

- [1] Read evidence A, B and C. Make a list of all the reasons you can find to say why people went on the Crusades.
- [2] Were the reasons all to do with religion, do you think?
- [3] Can you think of any problems and dangers people might have had on their way to the Crusades?

