

# **What was it like to be a Christian living under the control of Saladin?**

Enquiry: Who lived in the Crusader states?

Mrs Badhan



# Saladin the Merciful

By 1176, the powerful Muslim leader Saladin called for ***jihad*** - a holy war- against the enemies of Islam.

In 1187, at the ***Battle of Hattin***, Saladin and his armies crushed the Christians. His success, in **1189**, saw the Crusaders reduced to the occupation of only three cities. The Muslims took back Jerusalem and other states. When Saladin reached Jerusalem, he allowed the Christians to leave safely which gave him the title “***Saladin the Merciful***”.



# Life for Christians

Crusaders were to be prisoners of war, they could **ransom** themselves or else be enslaved. 40 days was given for the residents to pay their ransom, but many failed to do so. Saladin later announced that all **elderly people**, who could not afford their freedom, were to be *set free* anyway. Moreover, he allowed all **noblewomen** to leave the city without ransom.



## Life for Christians

The Al Aqsa mosque was turned back to an Islamic place of worship and the Crusader cross was torn down. Other Crusader objects were also taken down. Some Christian churches were **converted** to mosques, although native Christians such as the Eastern Orthodox were allowed to stay and worship freely within the city in return for the tax and their churches remained.



## Frankish rule ends

After losing Jerusalem, the Franks tried to fight back but without much success.

However, the Muslims now faced a threat from the **Mongols** and the armies of Genghis Khan. The Mongols attacked with such violence and some accounts say they killed up to 800,000 people. Some Franks considered joining the Mongols to help defeat Muslim rule. The Mongols, however, were driven out with the help of another Muslim group called the **Mamluks** and by 1291, the last of the Franks had been expelled from the Holy land.



# Glossary

**Jihad:** 'holy war' against enemies of Islam.

**Mongols:** group of people from Asia.

**Mamluks:** Muslim group of people.

**Ransom:** sum of money demanded for release.

**Converted:** changed.



# Comprehension Questions

1. Why was Saladin considered 'merciful'?

**Sentence starter:** Saladin was considered merciful because...

2. What did Saladin do to the churches?

3. How did Saladin treat the Franks once he had captured the Holy land?

4. What did Saladin do to reinstate Islam in the city?

5. **Challenge:** How did Frankish rule come to an end in the Crusader states?



# Task

Write a short paragraph **explaining** how Christians were treated under Saladin.

Sentence starters:	Key words
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b><i>Overall, Saladin treated the Christians in the Crusader states....</i></b></li><li>● <b><i>This can be supported by...</i></b></li><li>● <b><i>This shows that he treated them....because....</i></b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saladin</li><li>- Franks</li><li>- Saracens</li><li>- Jerusalem</li></ul>

