**Holy Land**

The Crusades

From: UCI History Project

**History Standards: 7.6.6**

Discuss the causes and course of the religious Crusades and their effects on the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish populations in Europe, with emphasis on the increasing contact by Europeans with cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean world.

**CCSS Standards: Writing, Grades 6-8**

2. Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes.

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

**Guiding Question:**  
Where is the Holy Land? Why is it called Holy Land?

**Overview of Lesson:**

Discuss with students the meaning of the word “holy”.

Let students identify Jerusalem and read the short informational paragraph. Then review the three film questions and tell students that you will expect full, detailed paragraphs in response to each one. Ask them to take notes during the film, but only on information pertinent to those three questions. This can be assigned for homework if not enough class time remains.

**The Holy Land**

Today we learn about the Holy Land, where it is located and who considers this land holy.

What does the word **holy** mean to you? What do you consider holy?

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Holy is an adjective used to describe a word. Holy can be defined as:

*Something that is recognized or declared sacred by a religion.*

You have studied a lot about religion this year. Do you remember the name of either of the holy books from the Islamic or Christian religion? What are they called?

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The Holy Land is a place located in the Middle East and centered on Jerusalem that is held sacred by people from **3** major religions: the Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

Look at the map on the next page and find Jerusalem. Mark it with a star.

Jerusalem is a sacred city for these three major monotheistic religions. These religions are all considered religions of the book because they share common religious stories in each of their holy books. They also share the belief that Jerusalem is a holy city and each religion has sacred spaces in the city itself. The city has several sites of religious importance:

the Temple Mount and its Western Wall for Jews,

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Christians,

and the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque for Muslims.

Watch the movie, *Jerusalem: History of the Holy Land,* and answer the questions below.

1. Who was the first king of Jerusalem?
2. Why is the Dome of the Rock important for both Muslims and Jews?
3. Why is Jerusalem sacred for Christians?

