



## LESSON 3.2.4 | WATCH | Key Ideas – Factual

Use these questions and prompts at the appropriate stopping points to check in with students and ensure they are getting the key concepts covered in the video.

1. (:40) What prejudices have been applied to Africa with regard to its history?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** That true history is one in which it's recorded in texts; that the writing of history is civilized and those societies without written histories (those with oral traditions) are uncivilized.

2. (1:30) What interesting event happened when Mansa Musa visited Alexandria?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** In bringing along so much gold and freely spending it, he caused runaway inflation that took years to recover from.

3. (2:10) What were European impressions of Mansa Musa and how did that impact Africa?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Europeans saw Mansa Musa as such a wealthy person that they assumed West Africa was a land of gold. This further supports the notion that undermines stereotypes of Africa, that people were poor and lived in tribes, rather than an advanced society.

4. (2:50) What assumptions should we make about Mansa Musa?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** We should assume that Mansa Musa was a devout Muslim, was well educated as evidenced that he was very familiar with places and customs of lands he visited before getting there, and that he promoted a network of connectedness because Europeans were fascinated with him and where he came from.

5. (3:30) What types of trade occurred between North Africans (Berbers) and West Africans?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Trade was typically an exchange of salt and gold. However, because of this trade, ideas such as the Islamic faith were exchanged. This is a recurring theme in trade networks: the idea of converting or adopting another religion as to improve economic relations.



6. (4:00) How and why did Islam spread from North to West Africa?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** As previously hinted at in the past response, Islam spread along trade routes amongst traders and merchants who benefitted from having both an economic and religious connection with trading partners. Kings and elites followed suit because sharing a religion would give them prestige and access to scholars and administrators who helped cement their power/legacy.

7. (5:10) How is it that we know so much about the nation of Mali?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Mali was visited by Ibn Battuta, a Moroccan cleric and scholar, who wrote of his experiences in Mali. Ibn Battuta was adored the world over for being one of the most famous travelers ever and kept records of all of the lands he visited.

8. (7:00) What is the Swahili civilization?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** The Swahili civilization was a collection of city states like Zanzibar, Mombasa and Mogadishu, which were all part of a trade network. While not unified into a single nation, the civilization was united by trade, language and religion.

9. (7:20) As noted, the Swahili civilization was linked by language (Bantu), which was originally spoken in West Africa. What significant ideas were brought from this migration from West to East Africa?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** The original speakers of Swahili were from West Africa whose migration to East Africa not only changed linguistic traditions, but they also brought ironwork and agricultural methods to the region. Until this point, most of East Africa had remained hunter-gatherers.

10. (8:30) When did Swahili civilizations reach their height?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** These port cities and their economies were determined by the strength of trade, and because of this, saw their peak between the 13th and 16th centuries.



## LESSON 3.2.4 | WATCH | Conceptual Thinking

Answer the following question to make connections across different concepts and think more critically about the information presented in the video.

1. Why are there distorted and perhaps unfair assumptions of African history? How might we better view the histories of the “uncivilized?”



## LESSON 3.4.4 | WATCH | Crash Course World History #15 The Crusades

### PREVIEW

In which John Green discusses the Crusades, which were embarked upon by European Christians in the 12th and 13th centuries. Our traditional perception of the Crusades as European Colonization thinly veiled in religion isn't quite right. John covers the First through the Fourth Crusades, telling you which were successful, which were well-intentioned yet ultimately destructive, and which were just plain crazy.

### PURPOSE

Crash Course World History #15 provides an overview of The Crusades. Up to the early 11th century, relations between Muslims and Christians in the Middle East were pretty chill, with Muslims welcoming Christians to the Holy Land because they made money off the pilgrims. Therefore, why would you want to disrupt a money-

making enterprise? Following the loss of land, chaos and civil wars, the Byzantine Empire reached out Pope Urban II requesting protection from invading Seljuk Turks and Muslim influence in the Holy Land. Students will examine the relationship between Christians and Muslims, and whether or not The Crusades were more of a pilgrimage or a military campaign.

Crash Course videos should be used as an introduction to new ideas and concepts, an instruction to core ideas of the unit, and should serve as a reinforcement of previously learned events.

### PROCESS

As with all of the videos in the course, ask students to watch the video before class. Remind students of John's fast-talking and play the video with captions. Pause and rewind when necessary. As students watch the video, have them consider if the Crusades were an early example of western imperialism.

### LINK \_\_\_\_\_

- [Crash Course World History #15 – The Crusades](#)

Video questions for students to answer during their viewing.



## LESSON 3.4.4 | WATCH | Key Ideas – Factual

Use these questions and prompts at the appropriate stopping points to check in with students and ensure they are getting the key concepts covered in the video.

1. (:15) What misconceptions about The Crusades does John dispel?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Initially the Crusades were not a holy war on the part of the European Christians against Islam, though they were driven by religious faith. The Crusades were about uniting the east and west branches of Christendom and providing access to the Holy Lands.

2. (1:40) When and why did the First Crusade occur?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** The First Crusade took place in 1095 CE with Pope Urban II who wanted to unite Europe (and Christianity) following the Seljuk Turks sacking the Byzantines.

3. (2:15) Why were the First Crusades more of a pilgrimage than a military operation?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Theologically, Christianity didn't have an idea of a holy war - fighting wasn't something that got you into heaven. However, making a pilgrimage to a holy shrine could help you get into heaven, and Pope Urban II pitched the Crusade as a pilgrimage with a touch of warring on the side.

4. (3:25) Why, does John argue, were the Crusades **not** an early example of European colonization of the Middle East?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** It was argued that the knights who went adventuring in the Levant were the second and third sons of wealthy nobles who, because of European inheritance rules, had little to look forward to by staying in Europe and lots to gain (plunder) by going to the Middle East. This is false, though, because most of the people who responded to the call to crusade weren't knights at all; they were poor people. And most nobles who did go crusading were lords of estates, not their kids.

5. (4:40 & 5:00) What early struggles and successes did the First Crusades encounter?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Pilgrims kept robbing those they encountered on the way, plus there was no real leader so there were constant rivalries between nobles about who could supply the most troops. Despite these rivalries, the crusaders were successful because a) they weren't fighting the



6. (6:30) What were the reasons for the Third Crusade?  
Was it a success?

Seljuk Turks, but rather the Fatimid Egyptians and b) morale was increased when a peasant found a spear that had pierced the side of Christ's side hidden in a church. Because of this raised morale, the Crusaders took Jerusalem.

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** The Third Crusade was a European response to the emergence of a new Islamic power, the Egyptian Sultan al-Malik al-Nasir Salah ed-Din Yusuf, also known in the west as Saladin. Saladin sought to expand Islamic power by taking Damascus and Jerusalem, the latter causing Pope Gregory VIII to call for the Third Crusade. Ultimately the crusade was a failure because they did not reclaim Jerusalem, though it did put a target on Egypt.

7. (7:45) What was different and as John puts it, "crazy," about the Fourth Crusade?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** Lots of people volunteered; more than 35,000. Because of this, generals didn't want to march fighters, so it was decided to travel by boat, which necessitated the building of the largest naval fleet Europe had seen since the Roman Empire. The Venetians built 500 ships, but only 11,000 Crusaders showed up, which meant the church owed Venice a debt, which would be forgiven if the Crusaders helped Venice capture the rebellious city of Zara. This proved problematic because Zara was a Christian city, so despite the Crusaders agreeing to help, the Pope excommunicated everyone involved.

8. (9:30) What were the lasting legacies of the crusades?

**SAMPLE ANSWER:** The Fourth Crusade doomed the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople was conquered in 1453. Ultimately the Crusades were a failure at establishing Christian kingdoms in the Holy Land long-term, which remained mostly Muslim (up to today). Most historians agree that the Crusades didn't bring Europe out of the Middle Ages by offering it contact with the superior intellectual accomplishments of the Islamic world and were a complete drain on Europe's resources. ►