

# The 12<sup>th</sup> Century

Expansion and Enlightenment,  
Crusades and Compasses

**Activities for classwork or independent learning**



# Miracle Plays

The Miracle play was about the life or actions of a saint, usually about the actions that made that person a saint.

- One popular Miracle play was about Saint George and the dragon.

## Your turn!

- Use the internet or your school library to find out about the story of St George and the dragon
- In teams, write and perform your own short miracle play of this famous legend
- Your play should last no more than 5 minutes



# Places of worship - Temples

- Temples, such as the Angkor Wat, are buildings reserved for religious or spiritual rituals and activities such as prayer and sacrifice.
- The Angkor Wat is a living example of an ancient Hindu temple. Temples are also typically used as places of worship for Buddhists.

## Your turn!

- Find out about the main features of a specific example of a Hindu or Buddhist temple both outside and inside
- Draw and label these features
- Investigate what these features are for, and what beliefs and customs are associated with them. Add these to your work

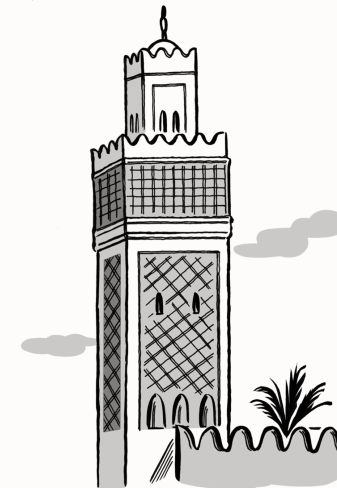


# Places of worship - Mosques

- A mosque is a place of worship for Muslims. Any act of worship that follows the Islamic rules of prayer can be said to create a mosque, whether or not it takes place in a special building.
- The Koutoubia Mosque is a living example of a more formal special building.

## Your turn!

- Find out about the main features of a mosque building, both outside and inside
- Draw and label these features
- Investigate what these features are for, and what beliefs and customs are associated with them. Add these to your work



# Saladin

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Saladin - An-Nasir Salah ad-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub - was an important ruler in North Africa and much of the Holy Land.

## Your turn!

Use the internet or your school library to find out more about Saladin. Answer the following questions:

- When was Saladin born?
- Where does the name Saladin come from?
- Where did Saladin come to power?
- Who did Saladin fight to gain control of the city of Jerusalem?
- Saladin defeated the Crusaders by setting a trap for them at Tiberias. What was the Battle called?
- What happened to the people of Jerusalem who could not buy their freedom from Saladin?



Saladin

# Genghis Khan

- Genghis Khan was born in 1155. He was a Tengrist. However, during his lifetime, he received teaching from Buddhist and Taoist monks and Muslim and Christian missionaries.

## Your turn!

Use the internet or your school library to find out more about Genghis Khan. Answer the following questions:

- Who was Genghis Khan?
- What was he famous for?
- How did he change the world?
- Why is Genghis Khan important today?



Genghis Kahn



# Resources for Teachers: the Crusades

More information and a video on The Crusades are available on BBC Bitesize

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zk3f6g8>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zjbj6sg/revision/1>

For further activities based on The Crusades, register with TeachitHistory where you can download several resources, including:

1. The Importance of Jerusalem - Designed to be the first in a series of lessons on the crusades. Students review an ancient map and match text and pictures to understand the importance of Jerusalem to Islam, Judaism and Christianity: <https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/the-role-of-the-church-in-the-medieval-period/the-medieval-period-1000-1500/the-importance-of-jerusalem/26604>
2. Why did the Pope send the Crusaders? - A fun way to introduce this topic: a fictionalised exchange of messages between Alexios I and Pope Urban II introduces students to the background to the Crusades: <https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/the-crusades/the-medieval-period-1000-1500/why-did-the-pope-send-the-crusades/27208>
3. What did people do on a Crusade? - A lovely role-play activity! Background is provided for students on seven different crusades. They use the information to create news reports: <https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/the-crusades/the-medieval-period-1000-1500/why-did-people-go-on-crusade/26606>

# Resources for Teachers: Henry II and Thomas à Becket

More information and a video on the murder of Thomas à Becket are available on BBC Bitesize:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zw3wxnb/revision/1>

For further activities based on the murder of Thomas à Becket, you can register for free with TeachitHistory where you can access several pdf resources, including:

1. Who was to blame for Thomas Becket's death? - Who was responsible for one of the most gruesome murders in medieval history?! A chronology and arguments for and against blame for each key candidate are given in order to scaffold a written response to the question:  
<https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/the-role-of-the-church-in-the-medieval-period/communicating-about-the-past/who-was-to-blame-for-thomas-becket-s-death/17703>
2. Henry and Thomas Becket chronology card sort - A simple card sorting exercise to establish how the rocky relationship between Thomas Becket and King Henry developed. Correct sequence answer sheet provided: <https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/power-and-conflict-in-the-medieval-period/chronology/henry-and-thomas-becket-chronology-card-sort/17701>
3. Crime scene investigation- A detective-style investigation of the murder of Thomas Becket, in which students consider suspects and motives for the killing:  
<https://www.teachithistory.co.uk/resources/ks3/the-role-of-the-church-in-the-medieval-period/historical-enquiry/crime-scene-investigation/17704>