WHAT WERE THE EFFECTS OF THE CRUSADES?

**Directions:** Read each of the four primary and secondary sources to determine what some of the major effects of the Crusades were. Identify as many effects as you can for each primary source. Underline any key phrases in the primary sources that support your argument.

**DOCUMENT 1**
Source: Solomon bar Samson, a Jewish historian, 1096 CE

“[The Europeans] set out for the Holy City [Jerusalem]...and banish the Muslims and other inhabitants of the land.... Now it came to pass that as they passed through the towns where Jews dwelled, they said to one another: ’Look now, we are going a long way to avenge ourselves on the Muslims; when here, in our midst, are the Jews – they whose forefathers murdered and crucified him [Jesus Christ] for no reason. Let us first avenge ourselves on the Jews and exterminate them from among the nations so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered, or let them adopt our faith....”

**Document 1’s Effect(s) of the Crusades:**

**DOCUMENT 2**
Source: William of Tyre, drawing upon eyewitness accounts of the capture of Jerusalem by Crusaders

“It was impossible to look upon the vast numbers of the slain without horror; everywhere lay fragments of human bodies, and the very ground was covered with the blood of the slain. It was not alone the spectacle of headless bodies and mutilated limbs strewn in all directions that roused horror in all who looked upon them. Still more dreadful was it to gaze upon the victors themselves, dripping with blood from head to foot.... It is reported that within the Temple enclosure alone about ten thousand infidels [non-Christians] perished...”

**Document 2’s Effect(s) of the Crusades:**
DOCUMENT 3


“...the crusaders’ firsthand experience in the eastern Mediterranean certainly intensified European borrowing from the Muslim world that had been going on for centuries. Muslim weapons, such as the famous damascene swords, were highly prized and sometimes copied by the Europeans, who were always eager to improve on their methods of making war. Muslim techniques of building fortifications were adopted by many Christian rulers, as can be seen in the castles built in Normandy [in France] and coastal England... Richard the Lionhearted’s [a King of England] legendary preference for Muslim over Christian physicians was but one sign of the Europeans’ avid centuries-old interest in the superior scientific learning of Muslim peoples.

From Muslims and Jews in Spain, Sicily, Egypt, and the Middle East, the Europeans recovered much of the Greek learning that had been lost to northern Europe during the waves of nomadic invasions after the fall of Rome. They also mastered Arabic (properly Indian) numerals and the decimal system, and they benefited from the great advances Arab and Persian thinkers had made in mathematics and many of the sciences."

Document 3’s Effect(s) of the Crusades:

DOCUMENT 4


“Those Europeans that returned [from the Middle East] brought back with them material evidence of civilization: fine silks, beautiful porcelains, exquisite carpets, perfumes, spices, and preservatives. No longer would Europeans be content to remain in their isolated, drafty castles; they had tasted the pleasures of civilization, and change was inevitable. ...

Two cities that directly benefitted from the Crusades were Venice and Genoa in Italy. ... When the Crusades began, Venice and Genoa promoted a sea route for the knights to travel to the Holy Lands, disembarking from one of the cities and arriving on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. ... The ships carried goods both ways across the sea, bringing woolen and cotton textiles and French wines from Europe, and delivering luxury goods from the Middle East to Europe. ...

With the growth of Genoa and Venice, Italian business people introduced banking to the West to facilitate the long-distance exchange of money and goods. Towns in France, the Holy Roman Empire, and England grew in response to the trade, and the use of money spread steadily."

Document 4’s Effect(s) of the Crusades: