

Name _____

The Fourth Crusade's Detour: Consequences of the Unexpected Journey to Constantinople

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: The diversion of the Fourth Crusade to Constantinople was motivated by a combination of financial difficulties, political maneuvering, and personal ambitions among the crusaders and their Venetian allies. The impact on the Byzantine Empire was significant, as the capture of Constantinople weakened the empire, led to the establishment of the Latin Empire, and resulted in the fragmentation of Byzantine territories.
2. Possible Answer: The legacy of the Fourth Crusade includes a lasting rift between Western and Eastern Christians. The sacking of Constantinople and the establishment of the Latin Empire strained relations between the two branches of Christianity, contributing to the schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. This division has endured for centuries.
3. Possible Answer: Enrico Dandolo played a pivotal role in the diversion of the Fourth Crusade. As the Doge of Venice, he negotiated a contract with the crusaders, offering Venetian ships and transportation in exchange for their assistance in recapturing the city of Zara. Later, he influenced the crusaders to set their sights on Constantinople, leading to the successful capture of the city.
4. Answer will vary based on personal opinion and interpretation of historical events. Some may argue that the diversion was unjustifiable because it deviated from the crusaders' initial holy mission to retake Jerusalem. Others may argue that it was a pragmatic response to financial difficulties and that the capture of Constantinople had significant geopolitical consequences.

