

Name _____

Knights of the Crusades: The Valiant Orders of Templars and Hospitallers

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Possible Answer: Both the Templars and the Hospitallers had the mission of protecting Christian interests in the Holy Land during the Crusades. However, the Templars' primary mission was to protect Christian pilgrims and they were known for their financial expertise, while the Hospitallers continued to provide medical care to pilgrims in addition to their military duties.
2. Possible Answer: The accusations of heresy and blasphemy against the Templars in the 14th century were likely motivated by a combination of political and financial factors. King Philip IV of France, who was deeply in debt to the Templars, saw an opportunity to eliminate his debts by targeting the order. Accusations of heresy and blasphemy were used as a pretext to arrest and persecute the Templars, allowing the king to seize their assets.
3. Possible Answer: The Templars' mysterious and legendary status in popular culture today has been fueled by myths, legends, and conspiracy theories. Their association with the Holy Grail, hidden treasures, and secret societies has captured the imagination of writers, filmmakers, and treasure hunters. This enduring fascination has made the Templars a subject of intrigue and speculation in contemporary culture.
4. Possible Answer: The Hospitallers' commitment to both medical care and defense during the Crusades enhanced their reputation as an order dedicated to the well-being of Christian pilgrims. This dual role allowed them to gain trust and support from both the Church and European monarchs. Their influence and legacy were shaped by their ability to provide essential services to pilgrims while also defending Christian territories, which contributed to their enduring prominence in history.

