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| **The Middle Ages Effects of the Crusades** |

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| Although the crusades failed, they had a major impact on Western Europe.**They helped to break down feudalism by increasing the authority of kings.*** Some nobles died in battle without leaving an heir. Their lands passed to the king.
* Some nobles sold their land in an effort to raise money to pay the special tax levied by the king to offset the cost of the crusades.
* Some nobles gave their serfs a chance to buy their freedom in an effort to raise money they needed to buy armor and weapons
* Some young men who could buy their way out of feudal obligation joined the crusades. Many died. That reduced the work force. If a farm failed, it passed to the king.

 **From their exposure to superior Muslim technology, Europeans learned how to*** Build better ships
* Use a compass

 **Western Europe began to express an interest in trade.**The crusaders brought back luxury goods. These items were vastly popular. To get more, Western Europe began to trade with her neighbors. Goods brought back included: * Silk
* Spices
* Sugar
* Art
* Literature
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