

# Crusades Cultural Diffusion Project

## Compare & Contrast Trading Cards

Explain how Europe benefited from the Crusades through [cultural diffusion](#).

This is an intermediate lesson on a path to the creation of a five paragraph persuasive essay. All resources are posted online.

### Background Information used in this lesson:

**Crusades Cultural Diffusion Project:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/index.html>

Students already are familiar with concept of cultural diffusion. They have already done the group research part of the project as well as been assigned the topics they are responsible for. The division of work is another example of cultural diffusion.

### Demonstrating a High-Quality Comparison:

**Elaborating Topic Sentences:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/elaborating-topic-sentences>

This activity is also used to prepare them for writing the concluding five paragraph persuasive essay.

**Teacher says:** We will be using several different graphic organizers to discuss the concept of comparison & contrast. You will be working in your groups and you will only have a couple minutes on each example. You must talk to each other and agree on a common answer. This is another example of cultural diffusion.

### Introducing the Topics to Be Compared:

**CCDP Webquest:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/webquest.pdf>

Compare & Contrast Medieval European society **before** and **after** the era of the Crusades using 5 of 29 topics..

**Teacher says:** For this part of the project you will be addressing the question: of how Europe benefited from the Crusades through cultural diffusion with the example of your five selected topics.

### Establishing a Purpose for the Comparison:

**Cultural Diffusion Defined:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/cultural-diffusion-defined.html>

**Teacher says:** What is cultural diffusion? How is it beneficial to societies? How can trading cards be viewed as an example of "diffusion"?

**Introducing the Comparison Tool:**

**Compare & Contrast Chart:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/compare-contrast-chart.pdf>

**Teacher says:** On your own piece of paper, I need you to create your own graphic organizer that looks like the one on the board. (A better alternative would be to provide printed handouts.)

**Model the Comparison Tool:**

**Compare & Contrast Chart:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/compare-contrast-chart.pdf>

**Teacher says:** Let's do an example together on Carolingian Miniscule. (prior knowledge)

**Posing a *Deep* Question to Students:**

Explain how Europe benefited from the Crusades through [cultural diffusion](#).

**Writing About the Comparison:**

**Trading Cards Instructions:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/trading-card-instructions>

**Trading Card Criteria Scale:** <http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/resources/trading-card-criteria-scale>

Discuss with students how trading cards are an example of diffusion.

Students will create their own trading cards using the statements from their graphic organizer to support their answer to the question of how Europe benefited from the Crusades through [cultural diffusion](#).

**Culminating Activity:**

**Five Paragraph Persuasive Essay:** [www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/index.html](http://www.arminsaysno.us/ccdp/index.html)