

READING A CHRONOLOGY

JERUSALEM: ARMIES AND FAITHS

Almost since its first mention in history, in an Egyptian text from around 1900 B.C., Jerusalem has been repeatedly desired, fought over, and besieged. While home to many of the world's great civilizations, the city

is most closely identified with the three major monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Read the chronological information below, then answer the questions.



Words to Know

• **caliph:** Islamic leader considered a successor of Muhammad • **Jebusite:** a pre-Israelite tribe living in and around the city of Jebus, which may have become the site of Jerusalem.

CHRONOLOGY

c. 1000 B.C.: Israelite King David captures Jerusalem from the **Jebusites** and establishes his capital there.

587 B.C.: King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon destroys the First Temple (built by David's son Solomon). He takes the Israelites to Babylon as captives. After Persia overthrows Babylon in 538 B.C., Israelites begin to return to Jerusalem.

30 A.D.: Widely accepted date of the execution, in Jerusalem, of Jesus, whose teachings form the basis of Christianity.

70: The Romans, who have controlled Jerusalem since 63 B.C., put down a Jewish rebellion, almost completely destroying the city. Jews (descendants of original Israelites) are expelled from Jerusalem in 135 A.D.

326: Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, who has converted to Christianity, begins to build churches and shrines devoted to Jesus in Jerusalem.

638: **Caliph Umar I** and his Muslim Arab armies take Jerusalem, then part of the Christian Byzantine Empire. Jews are allowed to return to the city.

1099: Angered by Muslim control of holy places, European Christians besiege and capture the city during the First Crusade. The Crusaders set up the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

1187: The Muslim commander Saladin seizes the city from the Christians. Except for brief periods in the 13th century, Jerusalem remains in Muslim hands until the British occupy it in 1917.

19th century: Jews begin to migrate to Jerusalem in increasingly large numbers. By late in the century, they outnumber Arabs in the city.

QUESTIONS

1. Which event took the Israelites away from Jerusalem and for how long? _____
2. Which Muslim commander first conquered Jerusalem and when? _____
3. When did the Israelites first arrive in Jerusalem? _____
When were their descendents, the Jews, expelled? _____
4. Which rough dates would you use to bookend the period of rule by European Crusaders? _____
5. Historically speaking, to whom do you think Jerusalem belongs, and why? Do other people have a legitimate claim to the city? Explain. _____

The Spread of Christianity

CHRISTIANITY'S REGIONAL SHIFT

Christianity has often been called a "Western" religion, that is, one based primarily in Europe and North America. Perhaps, more accurately, it was a "northern religion," concentrated in parts of the northern hemisphere. In recent years, this has begun to change.

In 1900 about three-quarters of all Christians lived in Europe or North America. Seventy years later, these northern countries were still home to more than half of the world's Christians.

By 2000, however, only about 40 percent of all Christians lived in Europe and North America. The number of Christians in Europe decreased as the number of Christians in other places increased. Latin America (a region that includes South America, Central America, and the Caribbean as defined by the United Nations) and Africa were home to 44 percent of all Christians, with a quarter of all Christians in Latin America.

Researchers predict that by 2025 almost 50 percent of all Christians will live in Africa and Latin America, with each place having almost a quarter of the entire Christian population. The percentage of Christians in Asia is also expected to continue to rise to about 18 percent.

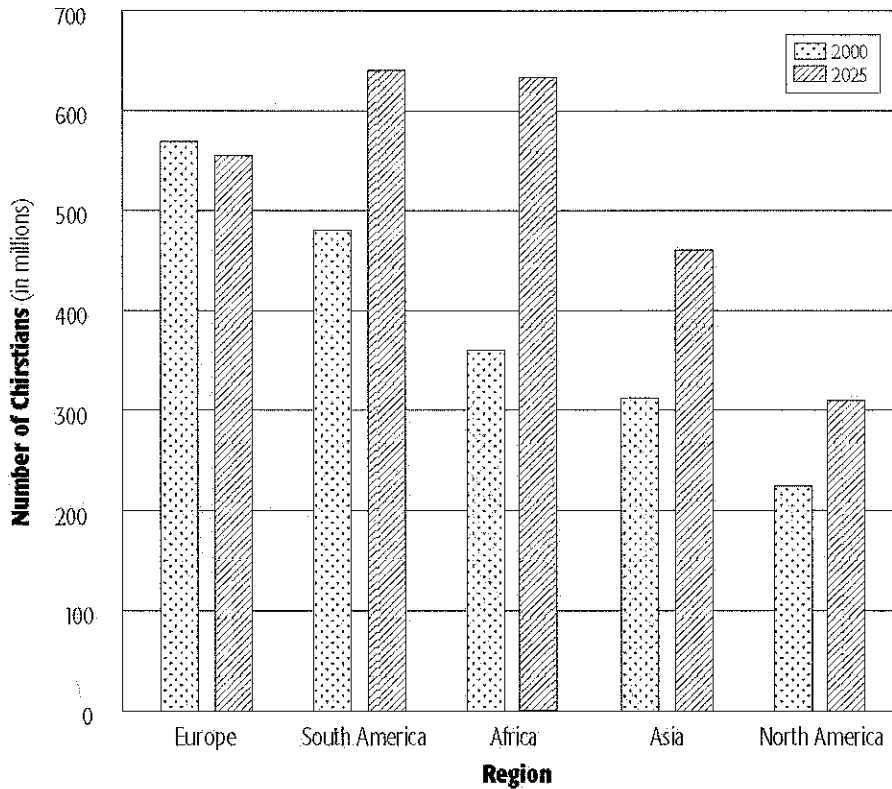
YOU ARE THE GEOGRAPHER

1. On the map of the world in this activity, highlight the continents that had the most Christians in 1900. *Use yellow.*
2. In a different color, mark the continents with the most Christians in 2000. *Use green.*
3. In a third color, highlight the continents expected to have the highest percentage of Christians in 2025. *Use blue.*
4. Create a legend that shows what you have marked on the map. Add an appropriate title to your map.
5. Look at the chart on the following page. Which area is predicted to have the biggest growth in the number of Christians between 2000 and 2025? Which area is predicted to have the most Christians in 2025?

6. Hypothesize why percentages of Christians are increasing in some regions and decreasing in others.

7. What effect might the shift in the heavily Christian regions have on Christian religions?

Number of Christians, 2000 versus 2025



8. Who is the new Roman Catholic pope?

where is he originally from?

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