

Historical Princess Study Guide

Let Them Eat Cake

Marie Antoinette



Maria Antonia - Marie Antoinette

Born: November 2, 1755

Spouse: Louis XVI of France, married 1770

Became Queen of France: May 10, 1774

Children: Marie Therese, Louis Joseph, Louis XVII, Sophia

Died: October 16, 1793

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Antoinette



Most Royals in history had arranged marriages. Maria Antonia of Austria was engaged to Louis Auguste the Dauphin (prince) of France when they were children. Antonia was given this portrait of her fiancé.

Non-Fiction Book List

- “To Be a Princess” by, H. Brewster and L. Coulter
-
- “Who was Marie Antoinette” by, DM Rau
-
- “Marie Antoinette, Queen of France” by, M. Englar

Era Literature

- “Gulliver’s Travels” by, J. Swift
- “Robinson Crusoe” by, D. Defoe

Historical Fiction

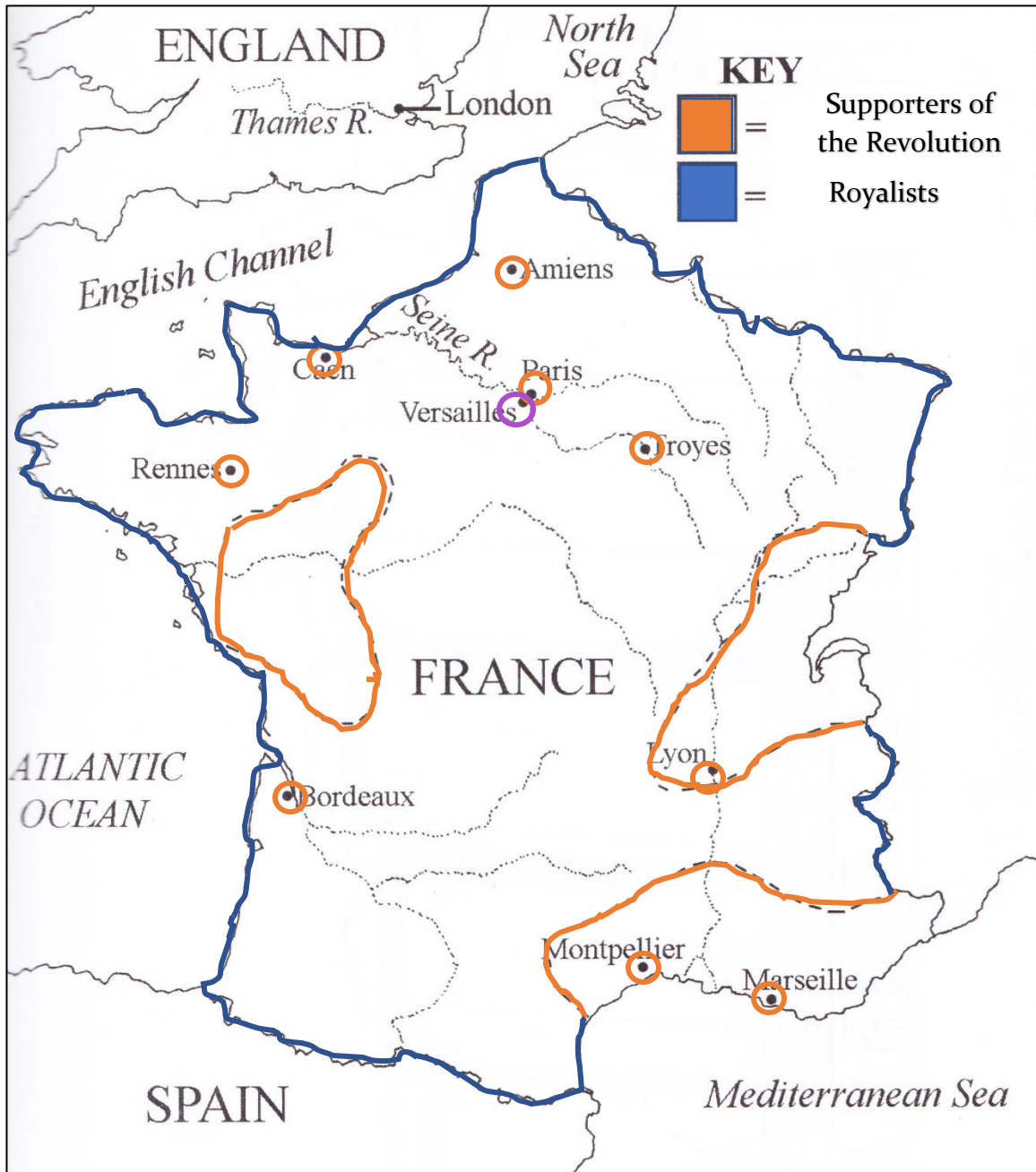
- “Marie Antoinette, Princess of Versailles” by, K. Lasky
- “The Time-traveling Fashionista at the Palace of Marie Antoinette” by, B. Turetsky

Art and Music of the Late 18th Century

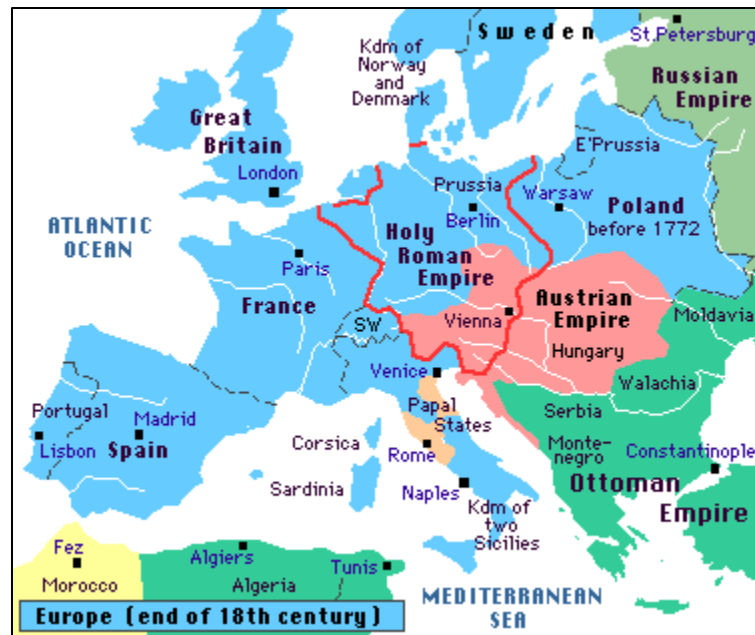
The latter half of the 18th century continued to see French preeminence in Europe, particularly through the arts and sciences, and the French language was the lingua franca of the European courts. The French academic system continued to produce artists, but some, like Jean-Honoré Fragonard and Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, explored new and increasingly impressionist styles of painting with thick brushwork. Although the hierarchy of genres continued to be respected officially, genre painting, landscape, portrait and still life were extremely fashionable. **French neoclassicism** would greatly contribute to the monumentalism of the French revolution, as typified in the structures La Madeleine church (begun in 1763 and finished in 1840) which is in the form of a Greek temple and the mammoth Panthéon (1764–1812) which today houses the tombs of great Frenchmen. The rationalism and simplicity of classical architecture was seen — in the Age of Enlightenment — as the antithesis of the backward-looking Gothic. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th-century_French_art

Some of the major composers of this era were Mozart, Handel, Beethoven, Haydn and Bach.

Map of the French Revolution



(map modified from Story of the World volume 3, chapter 25)

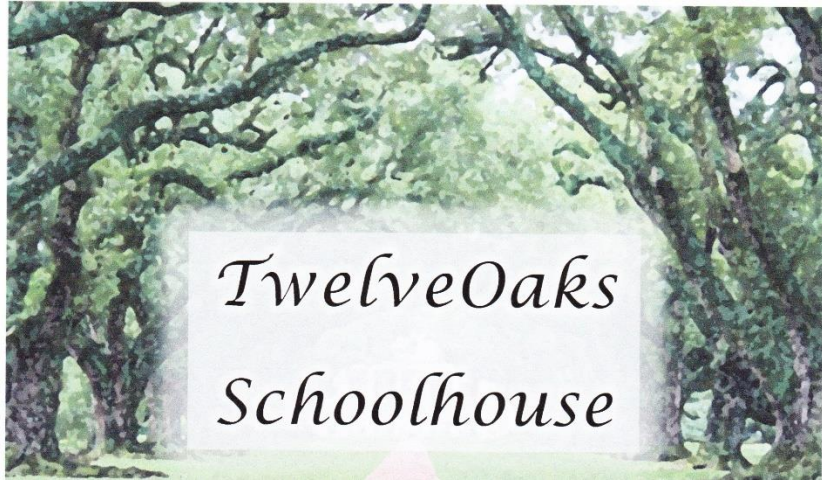


Discussion or Essay Questions

1. Describe Antonia's life as an Archduchess in Austria.
2. What was "the pouf"?
3. What was the lever and the coucher?
4. Discuss the "Let them eat cake" story and the Diamond Necklace Affair.
5. Why did the French people revolt?
6. In your opinion, was the Monarchy to blame for the troubles in France?

Activities

- Make a timeline; include important dates like when the princess was born, became queen, died, etc.
- Study the French Revolution and mark important events on the map above
- Find out and mark on the map what countries today were a part of the Holy Roman Empire in the 18th century.
- Make a family tree of the Habsburg family of the Holy Roman Empire and/ or of the Bourbon family of France
- Watch a Marie Antoinette documentary and/or "Marie Antoinette" (2006) with Kirsten Dunst, though be advised it's rated PG-13
- Study Art and Culture and Science and Music from the 18th century.



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