

Palace of Versailles WebQuest

Using the Versailles Website to explore an Absolute Monarch

In this exercise, you are asked to explore the palace at Versailles, to learn about the rule of Louis XIV of France. You will be asked some factual questions and will also be asked to draw some conclusions based on the information given. The goal is for you to get a feel for what royal life was like for this "absolute monarch."

When you log in, go to www.chateauversailles.fr/

Click on "English" (Even if you are fluent reading French)

Take a moment to look over the opening page. This shows how the site is organized. Notice the categories: The Palace, The Garden, The Grand Trianon. These are the places we will explore.

Click on "The Palace"

1. What was Versailles originally used for? Who transformed and expanded it? What year did Versailles become the court and government of France?

Click "Discover the Palace" on the top right.

2. What was the Hall of Mirrors referred to earlier? What was it used for? What motivation do you think would a person have to build such a room?
3. Explain the difference between the War Salon and the Peace Salon?

Near the top, scroll over to "The King's Grand Apartment."

4. What was the purpose of the Parade Apartment?
5. In the King's Grand Apartment, which **two** salons (Hercules, Abundance, Venus, Diana, Mars, Mercury or Apollo) would you hang out in the most and why?

Next, scroll over to "The Royal Chapel."

6. What would happen each day at 10 AM? What does it mean to be "lieutenant on earth?"

Now click on "The Garden" on the left side.

7. How were the gardens completed? What type of work went into the development?

Click on "Discover the Gardens," then scroll to "The Fountains."

8. How many fountains are there? What do you think is the coolest fountain and why?

Now click on the link that says "History" at the top, then click on "A day in the life of Louis XIV."

9. As you read through the King's daily routine, what do you find interesting about it? What are some things you think are similar to the routines of leaders today? Which do you think is more work?

Scroll over to "Louis XIV, gardens of Versailles guide."

10. Does this sound like anything familiar? Do you think it would be useful if you went to Versailles? Why or Why Not?

Scroll to the "Pleasures of the Enchanted Island."

11. Explain what goes on here? Does this sound like anything you have been to? If so, what?

Finally, click on one of the slide shows from either "The Palace," "The Garden," or "The Grand Trianon."

12. After watching one of the slide shows, pretend like you are a real-estate agent trying to sell this place. Give a description that will get someone to buy this property?