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LE PETIT QUIZZ DE  
MARIE-ANTOINETTE



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

ÉDITIONS PIERRE DE TAILLAC

## WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE MARRIAGE OF LOUIS XVI AND MARIE-ANTOINETTE?

Diplomatic reasons. After centuries of rivalry and warfare, France and Austria became allies in 1756. To help consolidate this alliance, King Louis XV and Empress Maria Theresa of Austria decided to marry their respective grandson and daughter.

## WHERE DID MARIE-ANTOINETTE AND THE FUTURE LOUIS XVI FIRST MEET?

In the forest of Compiègne on May 14th, 1770. King Louis XV welcomed her warmly but the encounter with the Dauphin was much colder. The young man, who was of a shy disposition, was awkward around women.



## WHAT WERE MARIE-ANTOINETTE'S FAVOURITE COLOURS?


She had a particular taste for fresh, pastel tones: sea green, periwinkle, lilac, mauve and pink. In interior decorating, the Queen generally favoured white. She was also fond of floral fabrics and striped patterns.



## WHAT WAS THE QUEEN'S GARDE-ROBE?

It was the service within the Queen's House that dealt with everything regarding the sovereign's clothing. The Queen's Wardrobe was managed by the *dame d'atours*. Enjoying a prestigious position, she managed a large and highly structured team of chambermaids, wardrobe girls, hairdressers, dressmakers, laundry workers and valets.





## WHY WAS MARIE-ANTOINETTE NICKNAMED *“MADAME DÉFICIT”*?

No queen was more involved in the layout and modernisation of the Petit Trianon palace and estate. Moreover, she had a passion for jewels, parties and gambling. All this created rumours of extravagance and frivolity that tarnished her image.

## WHO WAS AXEL DE FERSEN?

This Swedish count was famous for his special friendship with Marie-Antoinette. Although their affair was never confirmed, the legend of the Queen's lover has stayed. He remained loyal to her during the French Revolution and organised the attempted escape of the royal family in 1791.



August 23<sup>rd</sup>, birth of Louis-Auguste, the future Louis XVI, in Versailles.

**1754**



April 19<sup>th</sup>, Marie-Antoinette and the Dauphin are married by proxy in Vienna.

**1770**



May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Dauphin Louis-Auguste and Dauphine Marie-Antoinette are married in Versailles.

**1770**



August 15<sup>th</sup>, Louis XVI gives Marie-Antoinette the Petit Trianon as a gift.

**1774**



December 19<sup>th</sup>, birth of Marie-Thérèse, the royal couple's first child.

**1778**



**1755**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, birth of Marie-Antoinette, archduchess of Austria, in Vienna.



**1770**

April 21<sup>st</sup>, Marie-Antoinette, the new Dauphine of France, leaves Vienna.



**1774**

May 10<sup>th</sup>, death of Louis XV. The Dauphin becomes King of France as Louis XVI.



**1775**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, Louis XVI is crowned in Reims.



**1780**

November 29<sup>th</sup>, death of Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, Marie-Antoinette's moth.



## MARIA THERESA OF AUSTRIA MOTHER TO MARIE-ANTOINETTE (1717–80)



Also known as “the Great”, Maria Theresa of Austria was born in Vienna, where she died at the age of 63. As heiress to the Habsburg throne, and in the absence of a male heir, she became archduchess of Austria and Queen of Hungary in 1740. However, her succession was rapidly contested by her former allies, and her kingdom was soon coveted by most European sovereigns. Nevertheless, after five years of hard struggle, her courage and pugnacity were acknowledged and she was proclaimed Empress. She married Francis I in 1736, with whom she had sixteen children, including Marie-Antoinette.

## LOUIS XVI (1754–93)

Last King of France under the Ancien Régime, Louis XVI was also the last monarch to live at the Palace of Versailles. He was crowned at 19 and inherited a kingdom in great difficulty. During his reign, the Treaties of Versailles marked American independence, the abolition of torture, and the Edict of tolerance that granted Protestants civil status. However, his rule was also marked by considerable financial strain, which was partially attributed to his spouse. Yet, the Revolution broke out in 1789 and the monarchy was first made constitutional, then abolished in 1792. Charged with treason against the Revolution and attempting to flee the country, Louis XVI was guillotined in 1793, a few months before Marie-Antoinette.

