Tour Versailles

The Palace at Versailles was a palace constructed by Louis XIII and Louis XIV of France. It was intended to be the royal residence, the seat of the government, like America’s District of Columbia. The Palace at Versailles is much more than just a palace, it can be broken into four separate pieces – the palace (chateau), the gardens (parc), the royal retreat (Trianon), and the stables (ville). The fact that it has such expansive grounds has brought new uses to the palace - holding operas and plays, entertaining foreign diplomats, holding feasts and festivals, and sometimes even governing (go figure).

Use the website that follow in order to take a virtual tour of these aspects of the Palace of Versailles. Be sure to take the 360° tours and to zoom in on images to get the full effect. As you view these images and read the text, answer the questions that follow.

Google Earth: <https://www.google.com/maps/@48.8049686,2.1203338,3a,75y,202.8h,87.5t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s0jRHpypzKvok226d57vuyg!2e0!7i13312!8i6656>

Your tour should start in the Hall of Mirrors

1. What are some of the design elements that you see in the Hall of Mirrors?
2. What stands out the most to you about the décor of the building?

(make sure you take a look at some of the ceilings!)

1. Walk outside as well. What do you notice about the gardens and the grounds?

\*what was your favorite part of your walk?

Take a tour of Versailles at the official website: <http://en.chateauversailles.fr/homepage>

Click on the link “The Palace” on the lefthand side of the page. Clicking this link will provide you with a short history of the Palace and a slideshow of pictures that you can explore.

1. What type of building was the Chateau de Versailles originally? What new role did this building take on in the 19th century?
2. Describe your favorite picture

Click on History on the top links and then click on “a day in the life of Louis XIV”

<http://en.chateauversailles.fr/history/versailles-during-the-centuries/living-at-the-court/a-day-in-the-life-of-louis-xiv>

1. Between 7:30 – 8am the First Levee occurred. What was the Levee? And what do you think the purpose of this ceremony was?

1. When did Louis XIV have time to himself or time with his family away from courtiers or his ministers?

\*you can click on the pictures above to gain more information about life in the palace.

**Places of power**

1. What were the King’s Councils? What purpose did they serve?

**The courtiers**

1. How many people could live at Versailles?
2. Why did the nobility need to come to Versailles?
3. What did it mean to be ‘established’ at Court?
4. How did giving the nobles a sense of service benefit Louis XIV?

\*In the 1700s in France Christmas was not the time that people would exchange gifts. See if you can find when gifts were received.

Video: How did Versailles change over time? <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/about/versailles/>

9. Create a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts the Palace at Versailles and the Escorial. Consider such things as *purpose of the buildings, types of rooms or structures in the buildings, cost of the buildings, culture created or stored in the buildings, size of the buildings.*