Level: A2 Pre Intermediate

Skill: Reading

Château de Versailles

The Palace of Versailles is one of the most famous buildings in the world. The palace was the residence of French kings and queens for almost 100 years, from 1682 until 1789, when the French Revolution began. It is located in the town of Versailles, near Paris.

The palace has over 2,300 rooms, including 1,000 bedrooms. Some of the most famous rooms include the Hall of Mirrors and the Queen's Bedroom. The Hall of Mirrors is a long room with mirrors on one side and windows on the other. It is where the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919, at the end of World War I. The Queen's Bedroom is where Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France, slept. She was only 14 years old when she married Louis XVI, and she lived in the palace for 23 years before she was executed by guillotine in 1793.

The gardens of Versailles are just as impressive as the palace itself. They cover an area of almost 2,000 acres and have over 400 sculptures and 1,400 fountains. There are also several smaller palaces and buildings in the gardens, including the Grand Trianon and the Petit Trianon. The Grand Trianon was built in the 17th century as a retreat for the king and his family, while the Petit Trianon was given to Marie Antoinette by her husband, Louis XVI.

The gardens are divided into several sections, each with its own unique design. The most famous section is the parterre d'eau, which is a large pool of water in front of the palace. In the summer, there are musical fountain shows in the gardens, where the fountains are synchronized with classical music. There are also several events and activities in the gardens throughout the year, including concerts, fireworks, and even a marathon.

Visiting the Palace of Versailles is a unique experience. The palace and gardens are open every day except Mondays, and there are several different ticket options available. The basic ticket includes access to the palace and gardens, but there are also tickets that include access to the Trianon palaces and the Queen's Hamlet, which is a small village where Marie Antoinette liked to pretend to be a shepherdess.

The palace can get very crowded, especially during the summer, so it's best to arrive early in the morning or late in the afternoon to avoid the crowds. There are also guided tours available, which can be a good option if you want to learn more about the history of the palace. However, if you prefer to explore on your own, there are audio guides available in several languages.

Whether you're interested in history, architecture, or simply enjoying beautiful gardens, a visit to the Palace of Versailles is a must-do when you're in Paris. Just make sure to wear comfortable shoes, as there is a lot of walking involved!



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Choose the correct option to answer the questions

Where is the Palace of Versailles located?

Paris

Rome

London

Madrid

What is the significance of the Hall of Mirrors?

It is where the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

It is where Marie Antoinette slept.

It is where the French Revolution began.

It is where the Queen's Bedroom is located.

How many rooms are there in the palace?

2,300

1,000

400

1,400

What is the purpose of the Grand Trianon?

It was a retreat for the king and his family.

It was a small village for Marie Antoinette.

It was where the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

It was where the Queen's Bedroom is located.

What is the parterre d'eau?

A large pool of water in front of the palace.

A section of the gardens with classical music shows.

A small village where Marie Antoinette pretended to be a shepherdess.

A retreat for the king and his family.



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