

Paris MÔMES



FOR 6-12 YEAR-OLDS

Game  
booklet



22 OCTOBER 2017 > 25 FEBRUARY 2018

# Visitors to Versailles

TRAVELLERS, PRINCES, AMBASSADORS – 1682-1789



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



| Screen with a view of Versailles.

## A Palace open to all



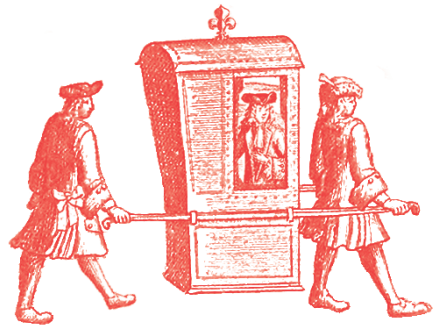
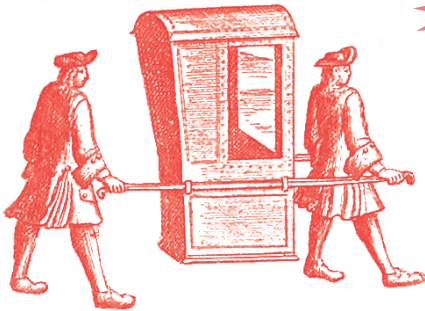
Versailles was the seat of the monarchy and was organised around the Sun King. It was a public palace, open to all so that everyone could see the sovereign's greatness. Princes, ambassadors, travellers on the "Grand Tour", the simply curious, or even artists who came to copy the style of Versailles... Everyone could come and see the King, whether they were officially invited or not, provided they followed the dress code. Versailles became the centre of intense diplomatic activity. Unusual delegations from distant lands (Persia, Siam, Mysore, and many others) came to the court of the King bearing magnificent gifts and left with presents that were just as splendid... This exhibition describes the history of all these visits, through paintings, items, clothes and stories.

# Travelling to Versailles

It took at least two hours to get to the Palace from Paris. Visitors who did not have their own carriage could take public transport. Prices varied: it cost 40 sols for a seat in a carriage (8-seater) when the King was at Versailles and 30 sols when he wasn't; it was 30 sols in a coach (16-seater) or only 20 if the King was away... The cheapest was the cart (20 sols or 15 sols) but this was not very comfortable. You could also take a boat from the Pont Royal to Sèvres, then a carriage to Versailles... Only the most distinguished guests could drive their carriage right to the foot of the great staircase where they had to present themselves according to their rank.



Look carefully at this sedan chair. There are five differences between this one and the picture on the right. Circle each one.



Charles wants to go to Versailles to see the King but he doesn't have his own carriage. He only has 60 sols in his pocket and he has to pay for the return journey. What method of transport should he take? (There are two possible answers)





# Appearing at Court

Anybody could go to Versailles to admire the King. This meant that the royal security had to be tight, but visitors were also required to be dressed appropriately.

For men, this also meant carrying two essential accessories: a hat and a sword. Apparently, the concierge at Versailles even rented them out at the entrance to the Palace. Because items were pre-made, it was very easy to have a fashionable outfit made quickly.



In order to appear at Court, a gentleman had to have a redingote coat, a sword and a hat. How many people can you dress to go to Versailles? Circle the outfits.



Details taken from *Mirror Pool and Royal Island* by Etienne Allegrain.



## Seeing the King

There were many opportunities to see the royal family, such as during the procession to mass, at the Royal Table or when the King touched people with scrofula. Versailles became a pilgrims' destination with sick people arriving in large numbers. The Hall of Mirrors, the State Apartments and the Gardens were accessible to all.

Petitions were written requests to the King for him to deliver justice.



**What events are shown here? Link each picture to the right description.**

### TOUCHING

#### THE ROYAL TABLE

Three times a week, the King dined in public to show off the talents of the craftsmen serving the Court.

#### THE SCROFULOUS

The French monarchs were kings by divine right and were believed to be able to cure scrofula (an illness like tuberculosis) by the laying on of hands. Louis XIV is said to have touched more than 200,000 sick people.

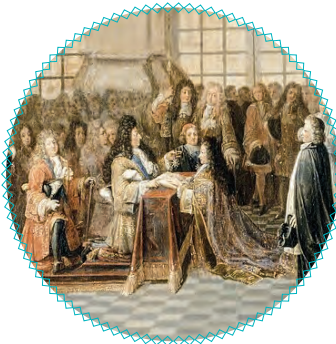
#### THE PROCESSION

Every day, the sovereign passed through the State Apartments to go to the Royal Chapel where he attended mass in public.

A



B



C



# Influence beyond national borders

Visitors who were received officially included many ambassadors from all over Europe and the whole world. Audiences for Europeans took place in the King's Bedchamber, at the foot of his bed – the sacred place of royal power! – while delegations from across the world were received in the Throne Room. The aim of this intense diplomacy was to establish France's supremacy and to build cultural and commercial ties. Some visitors, like the formidable Turkish emissary, Mehmet Effendi, or the young Prince Nguyen Phuc Cahn, barely 6 years old, left a lasting memory.



Draw a line to link the portraits of the ambassadors with their country of origin on the map.

PACIFIC OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN



**MEHEMET EFFENDI**

Sent by Sultan Ahmet III in 1721 to pay his respects to the young Louis XV, aged 11 and recently crowned, Mehemet Effendi made a very distinguished visit. Twenty years later, his son Mehemet Said headed the second Ottoman ambassadorial visit.

**MOHAMMED OSMAN KHAN**

This was the Mysore Ambassador (southern India) who was sent by Sultan Tipu Sahib to Louis XVI to ask for help from the French against the English.





NGUYỄN

PHUC CAHN



In 1785, the King of Cochinchina was facing major revolt in his territories. He sent his young son Nguyễn Phúc Cahn, aged only 6, on an ambassadorial visit to Louis XVI to ask for his support. The visit caused a sensation at Court.

MEHEMET REZA BEG

Sent by the Shah of Persia (present-day Iran) in 1715, he drew attention to himself by not respecting certain rules of decorum, such as not speaking before the King at the solemn audience he was granted by the sovereign.



2

3

4

5

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

INDIAN OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Co-author of the American Declaration of Independence, he is considered as one of the founding fathers of the United States. In 1776, he went to Versailles to ask Louis XVI to recognise American sovereignty and to request financial and military aid.





Gifts received and given:  
Japanese cabinet, snuffbox  
with a picture of the King,  
cup and saucer with a picture  
of Mohammed Osman Khan.

## Gifts

A gold snuffbox, boxes and cups with portraits, precious fabrics... sumptuous gifts given during diplomatic visits helped spread France's reputation by showing the splendour of Court and the skills of the famous Sèvres and Gobelins Manufactures. Meanwhile, presents brought by foreign delegations were an opportunity to discover the sophistication of distant cultures.



**This gold snuffbox set with diamonds was given to Cornelis Hop, the Dutch Ambassador, in 1725. It contains portraits of Louis XV and his wife Marie Leszczynska. Whose portraits would you put in there? Draw them!**







| Perspective print showing the Great Gallery of Versailles, which is today known as the Hall of Mirrors.

# The Grand Tour

Like Rome and its ancient ruins, Versailles had become one of the major destinations on the Grand Tour, a journey through Europe that all young noblemen embarked on to complete their education. It was the start of modern tourism.

Different travel guides mentioned the magnificence of Versailles and a souvenir industry soon came into being.



beauty

immense

125

decorations

Palace

In 1775, Mrs Thrale, a rich English tourist, visited Versailles and wrote this sentence in her travel diary. Unfortunately, some of the words are missing. Fill in the right words to complete what she wanted to say.

The apartments in the \_\_\_\_\_ eclipsed everything that I had seen until now in terms of luxury, splendour and \_\_\_\_\_ . The Gallery measures just \_\_\_\_\_ of my steps, it is \_\_\_\_\_ and covered in \_\_\_\_\_ !



# Travelling “incognito”










Some foreign princes visiting Versailles managed to get around the strict rules on protocol by appearing “incognito”, meaning that they changed their name, title and clothes. For example, the Grand Duke Paul of Russia, future Tsar Paul I, came to Versailles under the mysterious identity of the “Count of the North”. He was still well received, but could move around more easily and have more direct access to the King. This incognito status was only a formality of etiquette, because everybody knew the visitor’s real identity. It was even possible to slip out of incognito and then go back to it, depending on the circumstances.

King Gustav III of Sweden accepted an invitation from Louis XVI in 1784.



Use the key to find out King Gustav III’s code name when he went to Versailles incognito.



 = A	 = N
 = C	 = O
 = F	 = T
 = H	 = U
 = G	





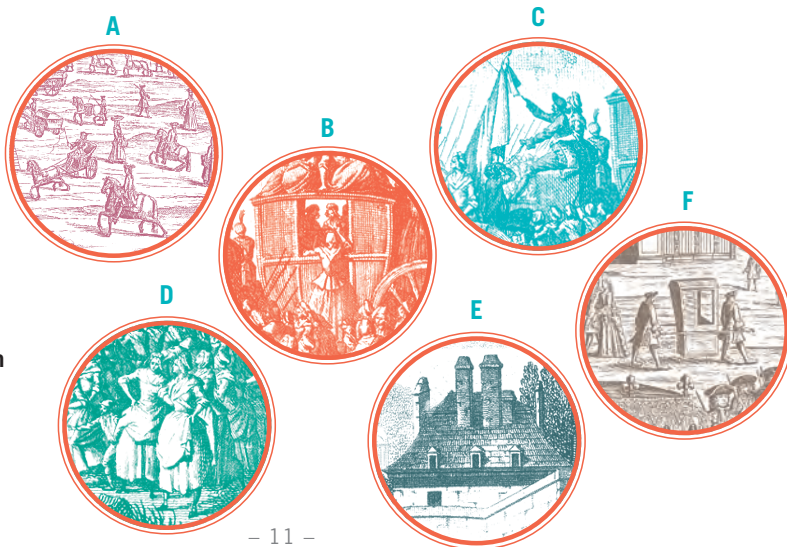
| The mob on their way to get the King at Versailles, on 5 October 1789.

## Unwanted visitors

In 1789, the French Revolution broke out. A few months after the storming of the Bastille, tens of thousands of people marched on Versailles and overran the Palace in the early morning to demand accountability from the King. It was the end of the absolute monarchy... No more extravagant parties and lavish spending, the people were hungry and wanted to take the royal family back to Paris.



In the last room of the exhibition, look carefully at the engraving shown above. Among these details, two do not belong to this scene. Which ones?





**DRAWING  
COMPETITION**

# Draw your outfit for visiting Versailles

Fashion changed often in Versailles,  
but you always had to be well dressed to attend  
certain ceremonies. What would you have worn?  
Draw yourself dressed as a member of the Court,  
an ambassador, a Duke or Duchess...  
and win one of many prizes.

To enter, complete the coupon below and send it with your drawing to:  
Château de Versailles - Direction de la communication  
Service Partenariats - RP834 - 78008 Versailles Cedex.



**WIN**  
a selection of prizes\*  
as sold on the Palace of  
Versailles E-shop.

\* see the selection  
on [Parismomes.fr](http://Parismomes.fr)

We the undersigned,

Names of legal representatives\*: .....

E-mail\*\*: .....

Address\*: .....

Postcode\*: ..... Town\*: ..... Tel.: .....

Authorise our child to enter this prize competition:

Last Name\* (of child): ..... First Name\* (of child): .....

Age of child\*: ..... Boy\* Girl\*

I would like to receive information about the Palace of Versailles by email.

\*Required fields. Competition co-organised by the Palace of Versailles and Paris Mômes, from 22 October 2017 to 25 February 2018 inclusive. Open to all participants aged between 6 and 12 who have the games booklet. Regulations can be obtained free of charge by simple written request sent to the above address. The data collected will be processed only by the Palace of Versailles. \*\*In accordance with the French law of 6 January 1978, amended, on information technology, data files and civil liberties, participants have the right to access, modify and, where necessary, oppose data concerning them, and they have the right to additional information. They may oppose disclosure of the data to a third party at any time. Any request for access, modification or opposition should be sent to the above address.

ANSWERS

QUESTION 1: A COACH AT 30 SOLS BOTH WAYS OR A CARRIAGE FOR THE OUTWARD JOURNEY AT 40 SOLS AND A CART AT 20 SOLS TO RETURN. QUESTION 2: THE LEFT FOOT OF THE BEAR PORTER, THE BOW ON THE JACKET OF THE BEAR PORTER, THE FLEUR-DE-LYS ON TOP OF THE CHAIR, THE PERSON INSIDE THE CHAIR, THE HAT OF THE FRONT PORTER. QUESTION 3: FIVE OUTFITS. QUESTION 4: THE ROYAL TABLE = C; TOUCHING THE SCROFULOUS = A; THE PROCESSION = B. QUESTION 5: MEHMET EFFENDI = 2; MOHAMMED OSMAN KHAN = 4; BENJAMIN FRANKLIN = 1; NOLVEN PULIC CAHIN = 5; MEHMET REZA BEG = 3. QUESTION 7: "THE APARTMENTS IN THE PALACE EQUIPPED EVERYTHING THAT I HAD SEEN UNTIL NOW IN TERMS OF LUXURY, SLENDOR AND BEAUTY. THE GALLERY MEASURES JUST 125 OF MY STEPS, IT IS IMMENSE AND COVERED IN DECORATIONS!" QUESTION 8: COUNT OF HUGO. QUESTION 9: A AND F.