

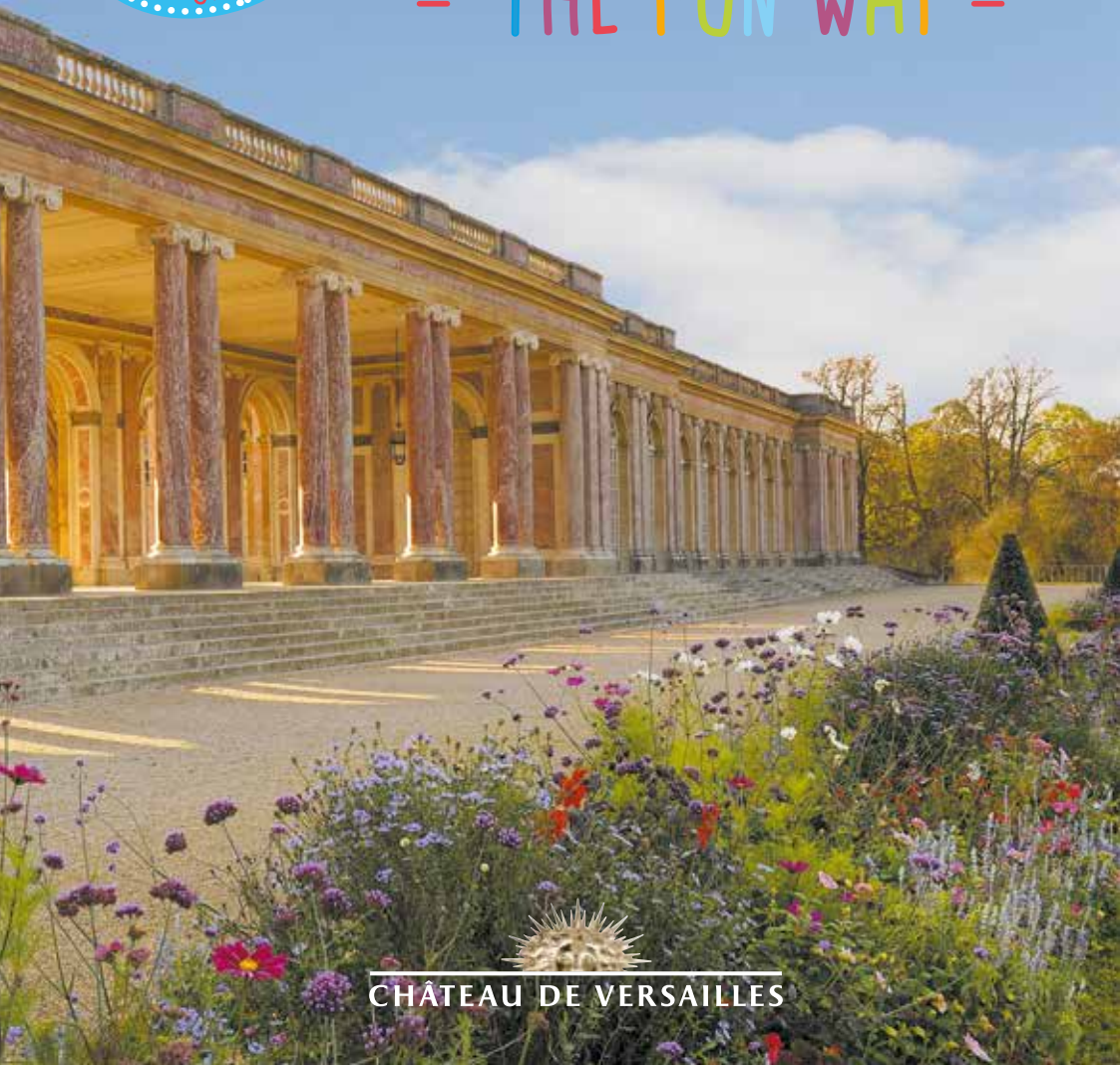
Paris MÔMES



GAME  
BOOKLET  
age 6 and  
over

# The Grand Trianon

- THE FUN WAY -



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



## Far from the pomp of Court

A Palace for pleasure and relaxation, the Grand Trianon was Louis XIV's most private place.

The name Trianon comes from the village that the King had razed to the ground so that he could build a small palace, the “Porcelain Trianon”. It was here that he carried out his love affair with Madame de Montespan. Later on, the palace was demolished and replaced by the current building, designed in the Italianate style by the architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart in 1687. Far from the pomp of Versailles, it served as the king's country house with its elegant peristyle (gallery of columns), intimate salons and fragrant flower gardens.

This was where he came to escape from the “Etiquette”, the system of rules that governed the behaviour of the King and his courtiers. This palace has been a place of rest and relaxation throughout its history. Deserted after King Louis-Philippe, it was returned to its original splendour under General de Gaulle who transformed it into a presidential residence to welcome foreign Heads of State.

# ✿ Louis XIV ✿

## the king builds a holiday home

← This engraving shows the Porcelain Trianon. It had this name because it was covered in blue and white porcelain tiles in the Chinese style. However, it was too small, and was demolished to make room for the Grand Trianon where the King used to invite his friends and the beautiful ladies of Court.

Before the 18th century, the Grand Trianon had another name. What was it? Look at the building for a clue.

- ☐ The wooden Trianon
- ☐ The marble Trianon
- ☐ The stone Trianon

Louis XIV occupied several apartments in the Trianon, first in the left wing, in the south, with a view over the Grand Canal (where he never stayed), then in the north of the left wing, which he appreciated more as it was cooler.



← This painting, *View of the parterres of Trianon with Flora and Zephyr*, shows an episode in mythology taken from the *Metamorphoses* by Ovid. You can see it in the Cotelle Gallery, decorated with 24 paintings, of which 21 are by Jean Cotelle (hence the name) and show the groves at Versailles and the Trianon at the time when they were first commissioned in 1687.

Who do you think Zephyr was?

- ☐ The nickname of Louis XIV
- ☐ The god of the west wind in Greek mythology
- ☐ The Roman god of love





# Louis XV

## the Marble Trianon becomes the Grand Trianon

Louis XV did not come here often. In August 1741, he gave the Trianon to his wife Marie Leszczynska to keep her away from the Court. But Louis XV did take advantage of the palace to move in with Madame de Pompadour whom he met in 1745. He started building the Petit Trianon in 1750. Thus, the Marble Trianon became the Grand Trianon.

Do you know what relation Louis XV was to Louis XIV?

- ☐ His son
- ☐ His brother
- ☐ His great-grandson

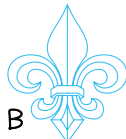
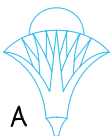


← In this portrait, Madame de Pompadour is looking at the viewer. She was beautiful, intelligent, cultivated and interested in politics. She was also the person who probably had the most influence over the King.

Daughter of an equerry ennobled by Louis XV, Madame de Pompadour's real name was Jeanne Antoinette Poisson.

Another important woman in the life of Louis XV → was his mother. Here is a portrait of her when she was still very young. Born Marie-Adelaide of Savoy, she was married at the age of 11 to the Duke of Burgundy. She had her own apartment in the right wing of the Trianon, under the supervision of Madame de Maintenon. This did not stop her giving lots of parties.

Of these 3 motifs, circle the one that decorates the Duchess of Burgundy's dress and symbolises royalty.



# ✿ Napoleon ✿

## brings his second wife, Marie Louise

After the Revolution, when all the furniture was sold, the Grand Trianon found a new owner: Napoleon. First, the Emperor wanted this to be a home for his mother, Laetizia Ramolino, but she refused, so he prepared the palace for his new wife, Marie-Louise, from 1810. The Emperor installed his private apartments in the ones that had been for Madame de Pompadour and Louis XV. He didn't sleep here more than about fifteen times.



← In this Hall of Mirrors, which Louis XIV transformed into his Council Chamber, the decor dates back to the Sun King but most of the furniture, sold at the Revolution, was made for the Emperor. Under the Empire, ladies came here to write their letters and play parlour games.

What was the small table in the middle of the three chairs used for?

- ☐ A mini-bar
- ☐ A sewing box
- ☐ A writing table

This breakfast service → belonged to Empress Marie-Louise and was made at the Sèvres factory.

Put the letters in the right order to find out what these dishes are made of.



L	R	O	E	A	I	C	N	P

# Louis-Philippe

moves in with all his family

In 1835, King Louis-Philippe decided to move into the Grand Trianon so he could supervise the work to transform the Palace of Versailles into a museum. His private apartment was installed in the left wing, in what were once Louis XIV's kitchens overlooking the Grand Canal. Queen Marie-Amélie opted for the right wing, and their daughters moved into the former apartments of the Emperor Napoleon. Their eldest son, the Duke of Orléans, moved into the Petit Trianon with his wife.



Louis-Philippe was proclaimed “King of the French”, rather than “King of France”. He reigned over a country undergoing a lot of changes, under the control of Parliament. Yet he remained in power for eighteen years, between two revolutions, one in 1830 and the other 1848.

Find the outline that matches King Louis-Philippe.



One of the many transformations carried out in the Trianon by Louis-Philippe, this former music room became a playroom for his five sons. What did they play on this table that you can see?

- ☐ Ludo
- ☐ Poker
- ☐ Billiards

# Charles de Gaulle

## receives foreign Heads of State

Under General de Gaulle the Grand Trianon became a presidential residence to receive foreign Heads of State. The palace was completely restored and refurnished.

One of these four chairs is the one General de Gaulle used. It has armrests and legs ending in animal feet. Can you find it?



A



B



C



D

The Queen of England, Jimmy Carter, the Shah of Iran, Ronald Reagan, and many more have been welcomed to the Grand Trianon by General de Gaulle's successors.

Put the seven Presidents that have succeeded General de Gaulle into chronological order.

François HOLLANDE

Jacques CHIRAC

Valéry GISCARD D'ESTAING

Emmanuel MACRON

Nicolas SARKOZY

Georges POMPIDOU

François MITTERRAND



# A walk in the gardens



Now here you are in the gardens. Stand in the middle of the peristyle: this is the starting point of a route that will enable you to admire the beautiful features of the Estate.

## 1 View over the gardens

These are typical French formal gardens, a style that reached its perfection here in Versailles and which is mainly noted for its symmetry.



Do you notice the slight slope that runs all the way along? What do you think it's for? (2 possible answers)

- ☐ It is practical (to take the water into the fountains)
- ☐ It is aesthetic (to give a feeling of space)
- ☐ It is acoustic (to hear the birdsong and the noise of the fountains better).

## 2 The Upper Parterre

At the time of Louis XIV, many varieties of flowers were planted: harebells, lilies, wallflowers, carnations, dames' rocket, tuberoses, and lots more.

Some of these plants were planted in such large numbers and their scent was so strong that the ladies had to leave the palace because they had headaches! Which ones?

Clue: their name starts with the twentieth letter of the alphabet.







Grand  
Trianon

Petit Trianon



### 3 The Grand Canal

This is one of the most beautiful views in the garden. From this point, you are overlooking the two great staircases and the Grand Canal, this enormous water feature in the form of a cross and covering 23 hectares: this is the way the King used to arrive by boat at the Grand Trianon.

The two rounded staircases that descend towards the canal have a particular shape. We call this shape...

- ☐ horseshoe
- ☐ backplane
- ☐ gendarme's hat



### 4 The Lower Parterre

It takes a little imagination to guess what these gardens looked like three centuries ago. In this area, there were jasmines and some orange trees (but most of these rare trees were a little further on, near the Grand Trianon Hall of Mirrors). We have to say that Louis XIV loved citrus fruits, so he had orange trees planted directly in the ground — quite an achievement at the time. As the winters were particularly harsh (France was going through a mini-ice age), moveable greenhouses were adapted for these trees.



In which country were the very first orange trees grown?

Clue: it's known as the Middle Kingdom...

## 5 The Lower Fountain

This is also called the Mirror Fountain: if you stand at the far end you can see the arcades of the Grand Trianon peristyle reflected in the smooth water. It is decorated with two wonderful and impressive dragons, sculpted by Jean Hardy in 1702.



Get close to the dragons, look at their feet. What is unusual about them?

- ☐ they are hairy
- ☐ they are webbed
- ☐ they are gilded

## 6 The Buffet d'Eau Fountain



This impressive fountain, made of Carrara and Languedoc marble, was designed by the architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart between 1700 and 1704. In particular, it includes statues of Neptune, the god of the sea, and Amphitrite, his wife.

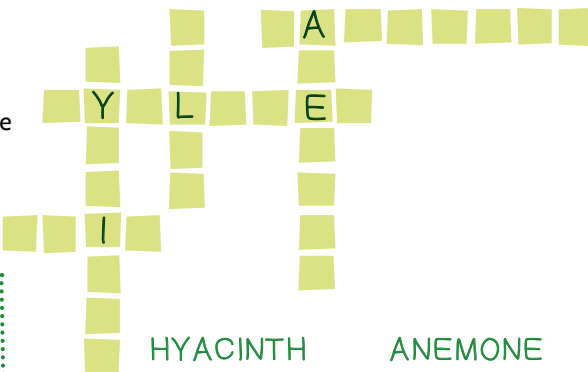
Find the faces of four characters with their cheeks puffed out. Why do you think they are blowing?

## 7 The King's Garden

Louis XIV loved flowers. The flowerbeds contained buried flower pots, so that when the King grew tired of them, the pots could be immediately dug up, moved elsewhere or renewed.

As a result, the decor could be changed from one day to another, as if his garden was a stage set.

Complete the crossword puzzle with the names of flowers that Louis XIV imported from all over Europe. They were rare at the time.



HYACINTH  
TULIP  
DAFFODIL

ANEMONE  
CYCLAMEN  
IRIS



## 8 The French Garden

Now you know a bit more about the gardens of the Grand Trianon. Louis XIV's gardener designed the layout here, and in all the French-style gardens at the Palaces of Versailles, Vaux-le-Vicomte and Chantilly.

Who was this famous gardener?

- ☐ Jean-Baptiste Colbert
- ☐ André Le Nôtre
- ☐ Jean de la Fontaine

## 9 The Petit Trianon

It is to Louis XV, great-grandson of Louis XIV, that we owe the Petit Trianon... first of all it was just a garden: Louis XV found that the King's Garden was too small for his liking, so he had another one made on the other side of the walls, with a botanical garden and a menagerie. Then he had this charming house built for his mistress, Madame de Pompadour.



The name of the Petit Trianon is usually associated with a famous queen (to whom we owe the Queen's Hamlet a little further on, and the wilder beauty of the English-style garden). Who was she?

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**SOLUTIONS:** page 3: The Marble Trianon. The god of the west wind in Greek mythology - page 4: His great-grandson. Answer B - page 5: A writing table. Porcelain - page 6: answer A. Billiards - page 7: Answer C. 1- Georges Pompidou, 2- Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, 3- François Mitterrand, 4- Jacques Chirac, 5- Nicolas Sarkozy, 6- François Hollande, 7- Emmanuel Macron - page 8: It is practical and aesthetic. Tuberoses - page 10: Horseshoe. China - page 11: They are webbed. Because they symbolise the wind - or rather the 4 winds, according to the Ancient Greeks: Boreas, the north wind; Eurus, the east wind; Notus, the south wind and Zephyrus, the west wind. Across, top to bottom: Cyclamen- Daffodil - Tulip. Down, left to right: Hyacinth - Iris - Anemone - page 12: André Le Nôtre. Queen Marie-Antoinette, wife of Louis XVI.