



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES



FROM
ACTIVITY
BOOKLET
AGE 7

1661–1711

THE GRAND DAUPHIN

SON OF A KING, FATHER OF A KING, NEVER A KING

Welcome to the exhibition!

The star, that's me! Let me introduce myself: Louis of France. My parents were Louis XIV, the famous Sun King, and Maria Theresa of Spain. I was born in 1661. Are you wondering why they call me the 'Grand Dauphin'? Dauphin is the title given to the king's first-born son. Then when I became a father, people called me the 'Grand Dauphin' to distinguish me from my son. From the moment I was born, I was pampered. Nothing was too beautiful for the heir to the throne.

As you go through the exhibition, you'll see me grow up, follow my education, meet my family, discover my passions and the places I lived ... the life of a prince who ultimately never made it to the throne!

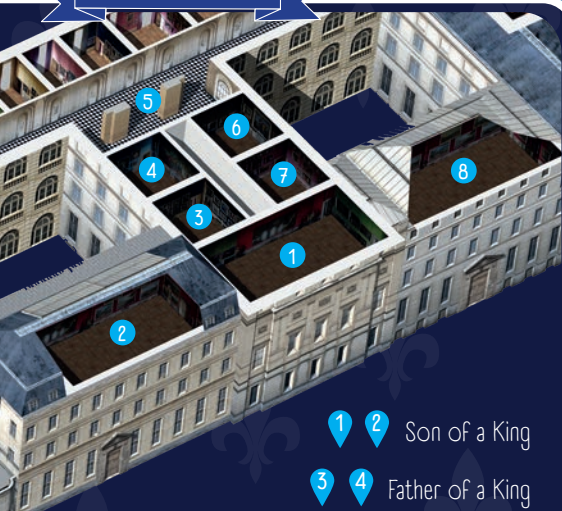
Are you up for a game as you follow me through the rooms?

Jean Nocret,
Louis de France, Dauphin

LET'S STOP IN FRONT OF
ANOTHER PORTRAIT OF ME!



EXHIBITION PLAN



- 1 2 Son of a King
- 3 4 Father of a King
- 5 6 7 8 Never a King

An eye for detail?

From a very young age, and since photography hadn't yet been invented, my parents called on the best artists in the kingdom to paint my portrait. In this painting, I am with my mother, Queen Maria Theresa of Austria. The little sceptre I'm holding in my hand clearly identifies me – even though I'm wearing a dress! In my day, that's actually what all boys and girls used to wear until the age of 6.

1. Put the details back in the right places!

Charles et Henri
Beaubrun, *Marie-Thérèse
d'Autriche et le Dauphin*



NEXT WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A SUPERHERO...



Jean-Baptiste de Champaigne,
*Le Centaure Chiron enseigne
le tir à l'arc à Achille*



Do you have a keen eye?

Do you like amazing tales from mythology? Achilles, son of King Peleus, is one of the most fascinating of these heroes. It is said that he received a thorough education from the centaur Chiron at a very early age. A bit like me with my tutors, who taught me many subjects and arts so that I could become a good king. These paintings decorated my childhood bedroom to inspire me to achieve great things!

2. Which of these sports is Achilles learning?

Darts

Shooting

Archery

Javelin

Boomerang

NOW, LET'S
GO AND
PLAY!



1



2



3. Only one of these
silhouettes matches the
little cannon. Which
one is it?



Shadow puppets

In my time, a future king also learned the art of war. I began my military training with toys like these little cannons. I also had a miniature army made of silver and lead, with several thousand little soldiers. Have you noticed the handles in the shape of dolphins? That is the meaning of 'dauphin' in French.



Scale model of a
36-pound cannon

DID YOU KNOW?

I GOT MARRIED WHEN
I WAS 19. FOLLOW ME AND I'LL
INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY!

3





Pierre Mignard, *La Famille du Grand Dauphin*

Who says what?

What a fine family portrait! I'm shown with my wife, Maria Anna Christine Victoria of Bavaria, and our three sons. There's no fooling around allowed when posing for a portrait! The youngest, the Duke of Anjou, became the King of Spain – Philip V. So I was the son of a king, but also father of a king!

4. Match the person to their words:

1 With spear in hand, I am the eldest, the Duke of Burgundy!

2 That's me, the Grand Dauphin, looking affectionately at my family!

3 Let me introduce myself: I'm the Duke of Anjou and I love my little dog!

4 Cute and chubby, I'm the youngest, the Duke of Berry!

5 I'm the Dauphine – lost in my thoughts!

DID YOU FIND IT?





Threads to untangle

Are you a collector, like me? I loved porcelain and vases made from hard stone, which is what we call all stone that comes from quarries or deposits. They're beautiful and very decorative. My collections were greatly admired, and I continued to add to them throughout my life.

5. Untangle the threads to match each object to its material.

1



Oval vase

2



Round cup

3



Ewer

Carnelian

Rock
crystal

Heliotrope

HEY, THERE'S SOME MUSIC PLAYING, LET'S GO AND SEE...





Are you a music lover?

My life was filled with all kinds of entertainment. Unlike my father, I was never a great dancer, and I preferred music – especially opera. As a child, I learned music theory and how to play an instrument.

6. Do you recognise what instrument it is?

1 Violin

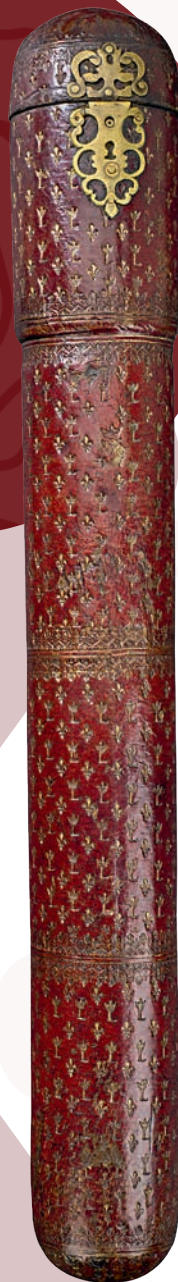
2 Guitar

3 Double bass

4 Cello



Pochette and violin with the stamp of the Grand Dauphin



Spot the 7 differences

Hunting was also one of my favourite activities. I loved it so much that I would spend entire days hunting game: hare, wild boar and my favourite – wolves. I was a skilled rider, and luckily I had my own pack of hounds to help me.

7. Seven differences have found their way into this painting. Can you find them all?

Original



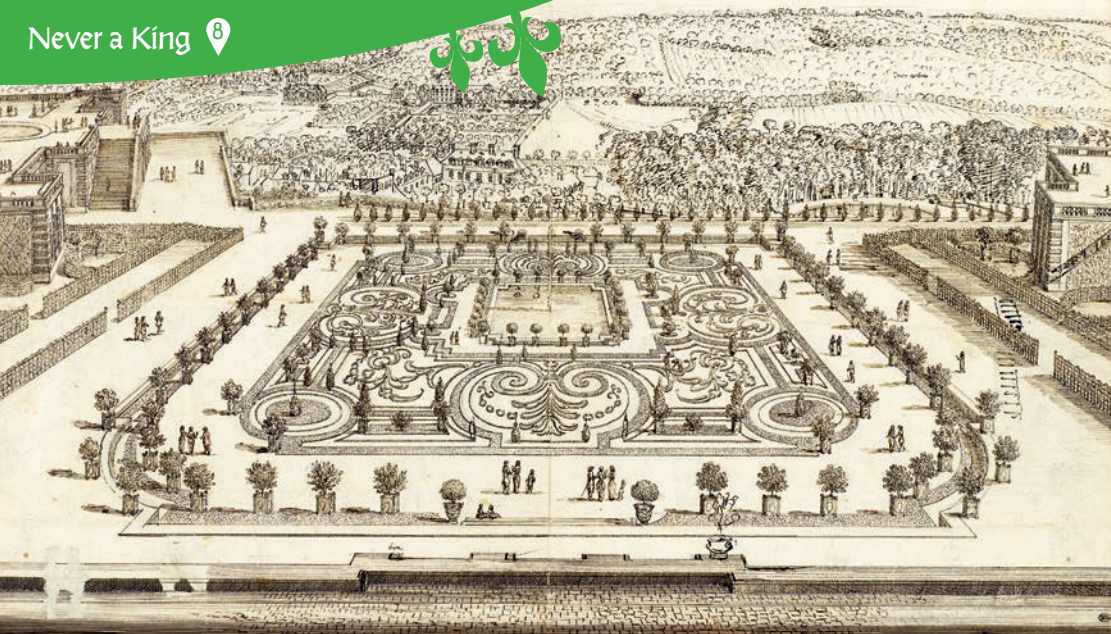
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Alexandre-François Desportes, *Chevreuil mort gardé par des chiens*

COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND 'MY HOME'!



Israël Silvestre, *Parterre de la grotte du château de Meudon*,

A princely maze

Welcome to my castle,
the Château de Meudon!

It was a beautiful
residence that my
father gave to me. I
commissioned major
works from the best
artists and architects of
the time to make it to
my liking. I used to love
strolling through the
French formal gardens
and getting lost in the
geometric patterns
formed by the boxwood!

8. Can you find your way out of the maze
to enjoy a walk in the gardens?





Keep your eyes open!

A 'bosquet' is a small wooded grove designed for taking a walk. At Versailles, there were seventeen of them, each more delightful than the last, that were painted by a certain Jean II Cotelle. These little miniatures decorated one of the cabinets in my castle.

9. Match each bosquet with its name!



1 Bosquet of the Star or Mountain of Water

2 Bosquet of Enceladus with Jupiter striking down the giant

3 Bosquet of the Colonnade with Apollo served by the nymphs

AND SO OUR WALK COMES TO AN END. I AM NOW COMING TOWARDS THE END OF MY LIFE. I WILL NEVER BE KING. IT IS MY SON, THEN MY GRANDSON, WHO WILL TAKE THE TITLE OF DAUPHIN. MY GRANDSON WILL BECOME KING LOUIS XV UPON MY FATHER'S DEATH.

✿ PRACTICAL INFO ✿

To discover different parts of the Estate, download the audio guide and the kids' tours on the Palace of Versailles mobile app.

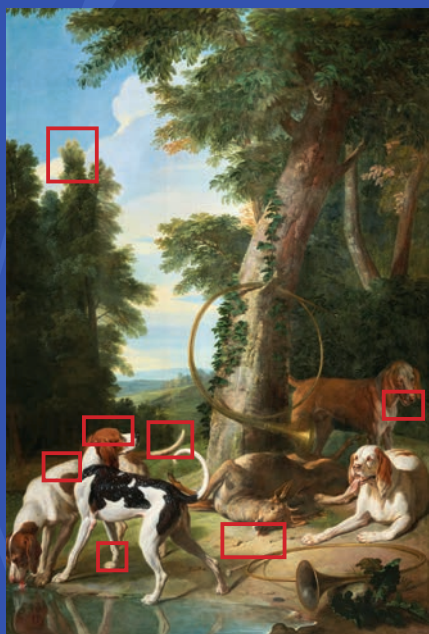
Thanks to the guided tour 'The King's Private Apartments', explore the lesser-known areas of the Estate — normally closed to visitors — with a museum guide.

Discover
the full programme at
en.chateauversailles.fr/family



Solutions to the puzzles:

1. 1C / 2A / 3F / 4E / 5B / 6D
2. Archery
3. The correct shadow is no. 3
4. 1C / 2A / 3D / 4E / 5B
5. 1 Carnelian / 2 RockCrystal / 3 Heliotrope
6. Violin
- 7.



9. A3 / B2 / C1

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