



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

ANSWERS TO « SEEK AND FIND » GAME

View of the Palace and gardens of Versailles from the Avenue de Paris, 1668 by Pierre Patel

- THE HOLDING PONDS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE WATER FOR THE GARDENS' FOUNTAINS.

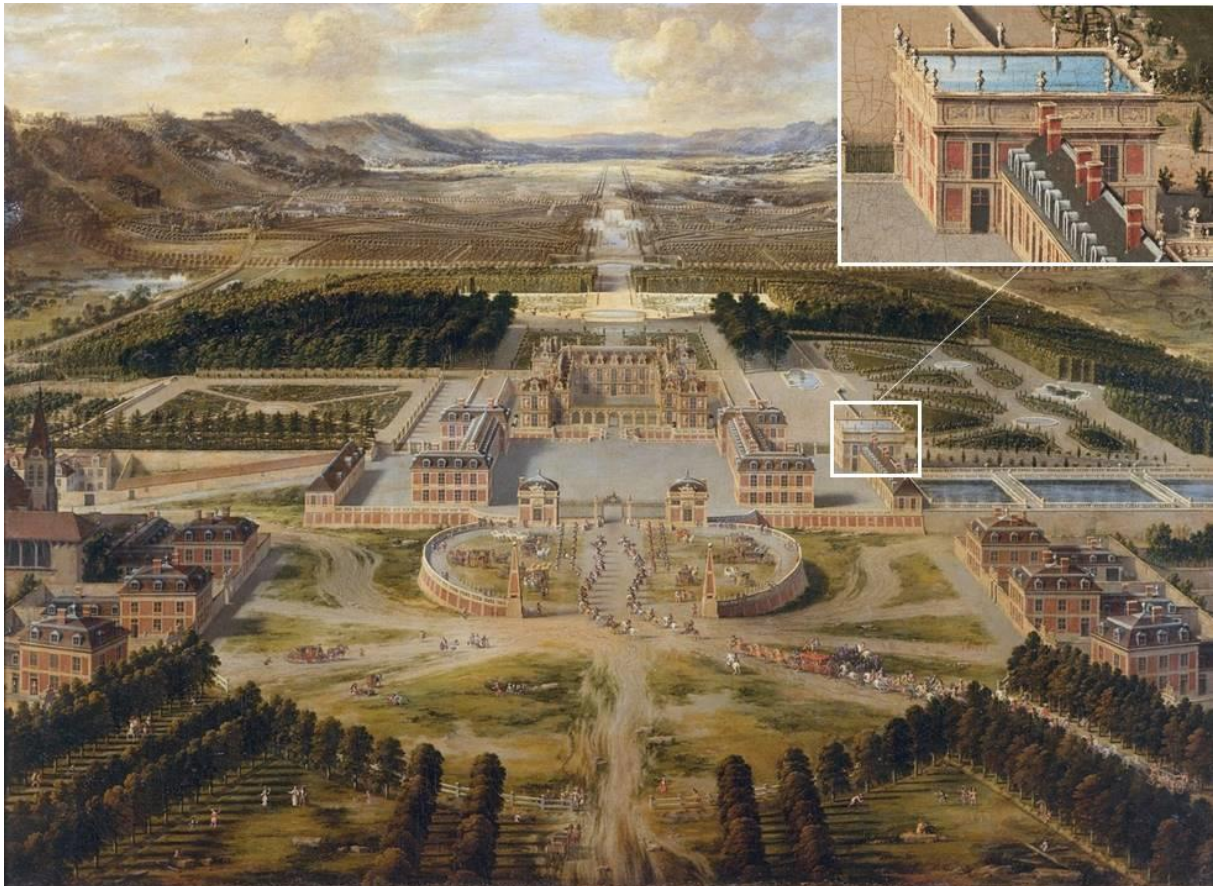
Clue : they are on the right, aligned alongside the French-style gardens.



The three holding ponds filled with water that can be seen on this canvas no longer exist. Their purpose was to provide water for the fountains in Le Nôtre's gardens. The water was pumped into the nearby pond at Clagny (now drained and filled in). Featuring a pump system and a water tower, these ponds were part of the mechanism that provided water to the fountains by gravity. The reservoirs were destroyed in 1684 to make way for a more sophisticated hydraulic system to meet the constantly increasing need for water.

- THE WATER TOWER OBSCURING THETIS' GROTTO, WHICH NO LONGER EXISTS. THETIS' GROTTO VIEWED FROM THE GARDENS

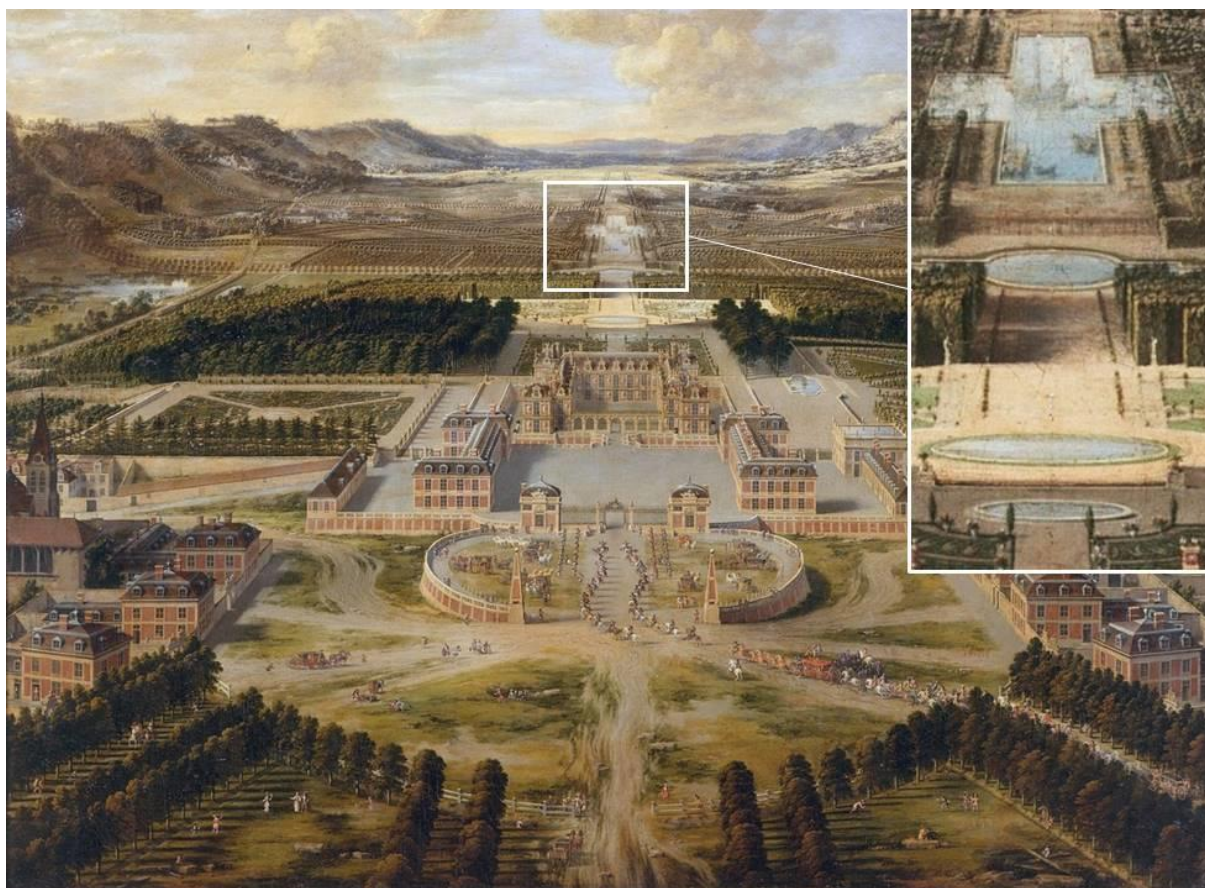
Clue : It's a structure close to the Palace, featuring a flat roof filled with water and statues all around the edge.



The water tower built to the north of the Palace in 1665 was incorporated into the overall brick and stone architecture of the Palace. Thetis' grotto was built to decorate the lower part of this water tower. It comprised an artificial grotto that could be admired from the gardens through gates. Three sculpted groups created by the greatest artists of the time took pride of place in a setting decorated with rockeries, water effects, mirrors, shells, multicoloured pebbles, rock crystals and even a hydraulic organ. This spectacular grotto was demolished to make way for the construction of the Royal Chapel and the North Wing. In the painting, the exterior of the structure can be seen, its roof serving as a tank for collecting water to supply the gardens' fountains by gravity.

- THE GRAND CANAL

Clue : It is situated along the central alignment of the Palace

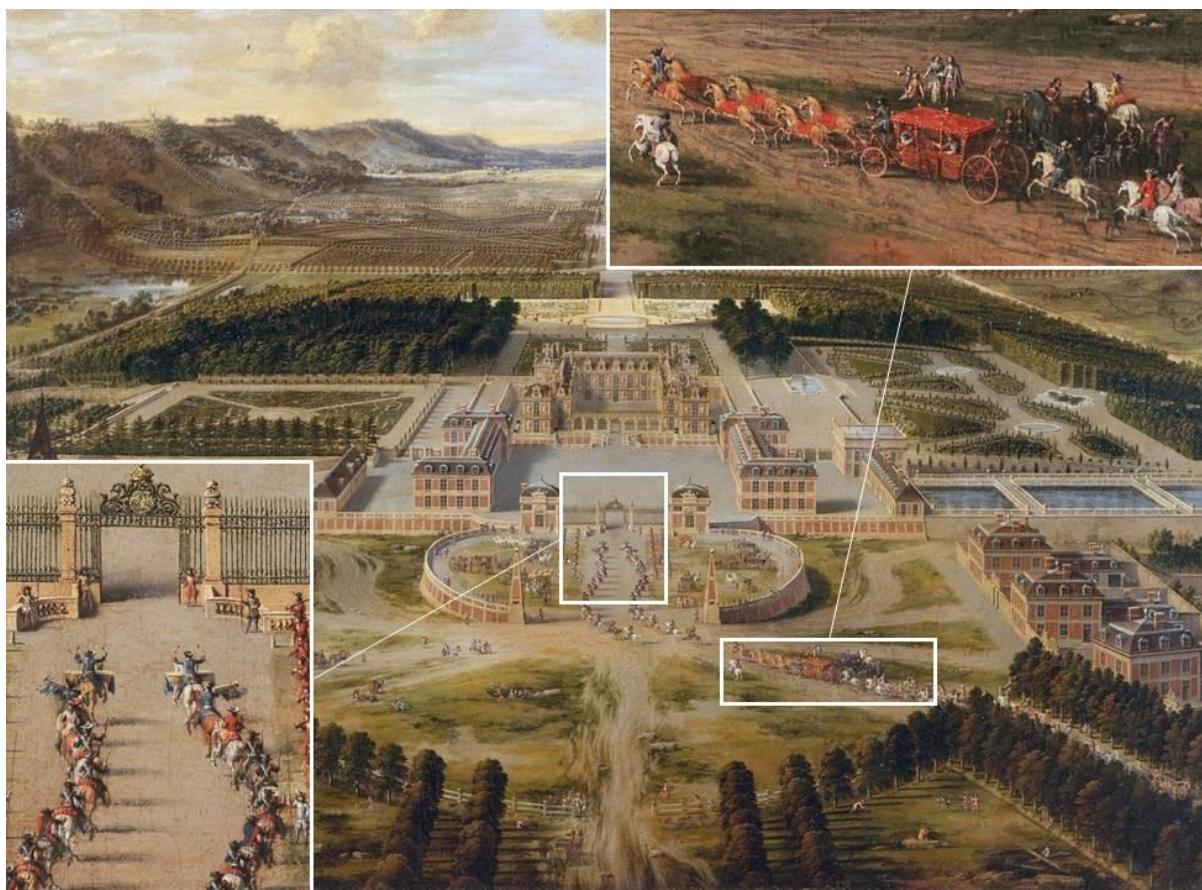


The layout of the Grand Canal does not look like it does today, with its two side branches, which were added later. In fact, work had really only just begun on it, as the Grand Canal was built between 1668 and 1679. Apollo's fountain can be seen along the alignment, as can the future Latona fountain, both, as yet, without their sculptures, as they were in the process of being constructed. This alignment was to form the 'grand perspective' that we know today.

The painter has depicted boats on the canal, which was not actually the case back in 1668. Thus, he is anticipating the king's wishes. Louis XIV was not to launch the first craft on the water until spring 1669.

- THE ROYAL COACH

Clue: it is red and drawn by six horses



The king had not yet made Versailles his principal residence, but he visited it regularly and hosted wonderful parties there. He only moved in permanently in 1682. He is seen here arriving with his royal guard and a cortege just in front of the Palace gates, with riders playing drums and trumpets. He is arriving via the new Place d'Armes and one of the three roads that make up the famous 'patte d'oie' ('crow's foot') entrance to the Palace. These roads had not yet been laid out or bordered by dwellings as they would have been at the time the king finally decided to live at Versailles with his Court.