**Name** **Class Period** **Date**

**Absolutism in France: Louis XIV & Versailles Field Trip**

**Task:** You are tasked with exploring the palace of Versailles to learn about the rule of Louis XIV of France. Your goal is to gain not only factual information but to also gain understanding of what life was like for Louis XIV and how he is an absolute monarch.

**I.** Watch the Mini Biography on Louis XIV. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5Njjd6R6d0>

1. Who were Louis XIV’s influences?

1. What were the positives of Louis XIV’s reign? What were the negatives?

**II.** Go to the website <http://en.chateauversailles.fr/homepage>

**At the top of the page click on “History”; below that click on “Court Characters” Start with Louis XIV**

1. What are your first impression of Louis XIV?

Under the image of Louis XIV click “From the residences of the King…”

1. Louis XIV forced his nobles to live at the palace, why would he do so?

Click on “A Monarch by divine law” located under the image of Louis XIV

1. Why did Louis XIV choose the sun as his emblem? What are comparisons he wanted to make between himself and Apollo, the Sun God?

**Scroll through the images at the top and find Jean Baptiste-Colbert.**

1. What was Colbert’s role in Louis XIV’s court?

1. What was Louis XIV’s opinion of Colbert?

**Click on “The Palace” on the left-hand side of the screen**

1. What was Versailles originally used for? When did it become the seat of government of France and when did it lose the position as official seat of power?

**Click on “Discover the Palace” on the right hand side of the screen.**

You should now be at “The Hall of Mirrors”

1. What is the significance of the Hall of Mirrors?

1. Look at images of the Hall. What would motivate a person to build such a room?

1. What is the difference between the War Salon and the Peace Salon?

Near the top, scroll over to “The King’s Grand Apartment.”

1. What was the purpose of the Parade Apartment?

1. In the King’s Grand Apartment, which two salons (Hercules, Abundance, Venus, Diana, Mars, Mercury or Apollo) would you hang out in the most and why?

**Scroll through the images and locate “The Royal Chapel”**

1. What would happen each day at 10 AM?

1. What does it mean to be a “lieutenant on earth?”

**Now click on “The Garden” on the left side.**

1. How were the gardens completed? What type of work went into the development?

**Click on “Discover the Gardens,” then scroll to “The Fountains.”**

1. How many fountains are there? Which fountain do you like the best and why?

**At the top of the screen click on “History”, then on the right side click on “A Day in the Life of Louis XIV”**

1. Summarize what day life was like for Louis XIV.

1. As you read through the King’s daily routine, what do you find interesting about it? What are some things you think are similar to the routines of leaders today? Which do you think is more work?

1. Louis XIV is known for stating “L’Etat, c’est moi” (“I am the State”). How does this statement reflect absolutism? Explain.

**Scroll to the “Pleasures of the Enchanted Island.”**

1. Explain what goes on here? Does this sound like anything you have been to? If so, what?

**Scroll to “The Courtiers”**

1. What positives and negatives were there for being a courtier?

**III. Reflect on Louis XIV’s by answer the questions below**

1. Do you think Versailles made Louis XIV a weaker or stronger leader? Explain

1. How did Louis use Versailles to strengthen his power as an absolute monarch? (Think beyond the use of nobles at court)

1. Based off of what you have learned do you think Louis XIV was an effective leader for France during his rule? (explain your reasoning)

**When you finish click on the links below to take a real digital tour of Versailles & the Garden**

The Palace: <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/u/0/streetview/palace-of-versailles/cwE5CwK49O0y5Q>

The Gardens: <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/u/0/streetview/versailles-gardens/WQEk3iDrQ20cCg>