



Is it possible to talk about Versailles without talking about the people who once lived there?

Marie- Antoinette is a very famous figure who played an important role at Versailles.

Her life

She was born in 1755 and died in 1793.

She begins life as **an Austrian princess**. She marries the King of France **Louis XVI** on 16th May 1770, thereby becoming the **Queen of France**.

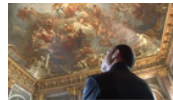
She spends a lot of time at **Château de Versailles**. Indeed, this is the most famous residence for the kings of France at the time.

Queen of France?

She finds it quite hard to adopt the habits that a queen should display, and isn't very good at behaving like one. Even today, she is still considered to be **a queen unlike the others**.

Her leisure activities

At **Versailles**, she devotes a lot of time to leisure activities: she organises plays and grand balls at regular intervals and she also loves card games and billiards. She is interested in art and plays music - the harp.



Fashion is a hobby of hers too, and she spends a lot of time choosing her dresses and asks lots of advice from those around her: she has a seamstress, a milliner and a hairstylist.

For these reasons, **Marie- Antoinette** continues to be looked upon as **an "original" queen**.

Did you know?

A film on the life of **Marie- Antoinette** came out in 2006. Directed by **Sofia Coppola**, this is a good way to find out more about this person.

What about elsewhere?

After it was built, Château de Versailles became **a model for construction**. Some copies can even be found elsewhere in France and abroad.