



0. WAR DURING JOAN'S CHILDHOOD - Story Preface
1. WHO WAS JOAN OF ARC?
- 2. WAR DURING JOAN'S CHILDHOOD**
3. WAR AFFECTS JOAN'S FAMILY
4. WHO SHOULD BE KING?
5. FRANCE NEEDS A LEADER
6. COULD A YOUNG WOMAN LEAD AN ARMY?
7. JOAN GETS THE JOB DONE
8. JOAN WINS AT ORLEANS
9. JOAN IS BETRAYED
10. THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ACCUSES JOAN
11. TRIAL: A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE
12. THE FINAL SETUP
13. JOAN IS BURNED FOR WEARING MEN'S CLOTHES
14. THE VERDICT IS RENOUNCED
15. JOAN AND THE MODERN WORLD
16. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?
17. LINKS ABOUT THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOAN OF ARC

This picture—attributed to “The Master of Anthony Burgundy”—is called the “Madness of Charles VI.” It depicts Charles crossing the forest of LeMans, in a battle against Pierre de Craon, and appears in *Froissart's Chronicles* (or *Chroniques*). The work is maintained by the BNF in Paris.

Before Joan was born—and for nearly one hundred years—England and France were fighting over French territory. The conflict was called The Hundred Years War. England controlled some of the most fertile part of southwestern France—called Aquitaine. France wanted its own land back. England had controlled Aquitaine since the twelfth century and had no intention of giving it up.

By the time Joan was eight years old, England had also won control of territory in northwestern France. The battle at Agincourt (on Saint Crispin's Day—the 25th of October, 1415) was particularly costly for the French.

Henry V (whose words and deeds were later memorialized by Shakespeare and brought to the screen by, among others, Kenneth Branagh) led the English troops (dominated, in this battle, by longbowmen) while Constable Charles d'Albret (filling in for Charles VI, who was incapacitated) led the French.

After these English victories, France signed an unfavorable peace agreement. The treaty with England (called the Treaty of Troyes) provided that the English king (Henry V) would become king of France after Charles VI (the contemporary French king) died.

The picture at the top of this chapter, called the “Madness of Charles VI,” depicts Charles crossing the forest of LeMans in a battle against Pierre de Craon. The story is from the late-14th/early-15th century chronicler, Jean Froissart, who was a contemporary of Charles VI.

The king, who is wielding his sword, somehow thinks members of his own forces are his enemies—and attacks them. It was well-known at the time that the king was “feeble-minded.” (Might that be why he authorized the Treaty of Troyes?)

Were the losses of French land, and the disastrous treaty, subjects of conversation in the D'Arc household? Those facts would be helpful to know as we piece together the evidence regarding Joan's visions and voices.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WAR-DURING-JOAN-S-CHILDHOOD-Joan-of-Arc>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WAR-DURING-JOAN-S-CHILDHOOD-Joan-of-Arc>

Battle of Agincourt - A British Victory

Clip from *Henry V* (1989), directed by (and starring) Kenneth Branagh.

Directed by

Kenneth Branagh

Produced by

Bruce Sharman

Screenplay (based on *Henry V*, the play by William Shakespeare)

Kenneth Branagh

Starring

Kenneth Branagh

Derek Jacobi

Brian Blessed

Paul Scofield

Emma Thompson

Michael Maloney

Richard Briers

Robbie Coltrane

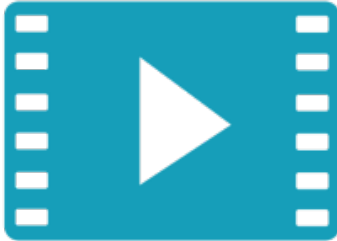
Judi Dench

Ian Holm

Robert Stephens

Christian Bale

Geraldine McEwan



Editing

Michael Bradsell

Released

November 8, 1989

Running time: 137 min

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Battle-of-Agincourt-A-British-Victory>

English Longbow - Battle Scene at Agincourt

Clip from *Henry V* (1989), directed by (and starring) Kenneth Branagh.

Directed by

Kenneth Branagh

Produced by

Bruce Sharman

Screenplay (based on *Henry V*, the play by William Shakespeare)

Kenneth Branagh

Starring

Kenneth Branagh

Derek Jacobi

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Editing

Michael Bradsell

Released

November 8, 1989

Running time: 137 min

View this asset at:

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Henry V - French and English Losses at Agincourt

Clip from *Henry V* (1989), directed by (and starring) Kenneth Branagh. Copyright Rex Features, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes and to acquaint new viewers with the production.

Directed by

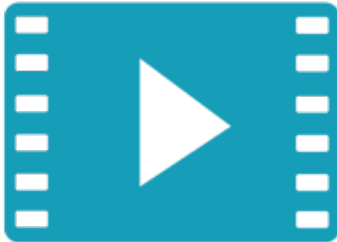
Kenneth Branagh

Produced by

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Screenplay (based on *Henry V*, the play by William Shakespeare)

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Starring

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