



0. COULD A YOUNG WOMAN LEAD AN ARMY? - 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?

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8. JOAN WINS AT ORLEANS

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11. TRIAL: A MOCKERY OF JUSTICE

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17. LINKS ABOUT THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOAN OF ARC

This nineteenth-century painting, imagining Joan of Arc at Vaucouleurs—with the Dauphin's commander, Robert of Baudricourt—is by Jean-Jacques Scherrer. It is entitled: "The Departure of Jeanne d'Arc." Image online via Wikimedia Commons.

In the meantime, Joan of Arc had been hearing the voices of St. Michael, St. Margaret and [St. Catherine](#) for at least four years. Joan believed she had to do what the voices commanded her: Lead the French to victory against the English and take the Dauphin to Rheims where he would be crowned king of France.

No small feat for a teenager!

Why would Joan think she could lead an army? Why wouldn't the Dauphin and his generals think she was completely insane if she approached them with her plan?

To answer those questions, we have to understand what women did in the 15th century. In fact:

- Women were allowed to fight with men during those days.
- Women were [wounded in battle](#). Thirty were wounded at Amiens.
- Women were heroes during sieges.

It was a very different time.

Even so, we need to assess how Joan's claims would be received by the King's military leaders. She was a teenager, with no military experience. Moreover ... Joan was motivated by *voices*? ... And *visions*? ... Of *saints*?!

How could this young woman ever hope to command an army? Following the direction of her voices, Joan was undaunted. She and her cousin made the [short trip](#) from her village of Domremy to [Vaucouleurs](#), where the dauphin's army was located. She needed, at least, to try.

Joan of Arc told the army commander she wanted to drive the English from Orleans and take the Dauphin to Rheims to be coronated at the Cathedral. One can only imagine the astonishment of [Robert of Baudricourt](#), the commander, when this young woman told him about her request.

The first time Joan visited him, Baudricourt laughed and told her to go home.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/COULD-A-YOUNG-WOMAN-LEAD-AN-ARMY-Joan-of-Arc>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/COULD-A-YOUNG-WOMAN-LEAD-AN-ARMY-Joan-of-Arc>

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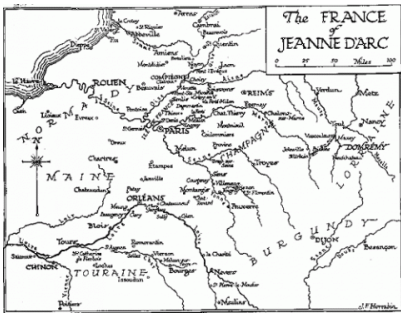


St. Catherine - Painting by Raphael

St. Catherine, by Raphael. Currently owned by the National Gallery, London.
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Map of France - Domremy to Vancoulers

Animated map online, courtesy [SMU](#).

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Joan of Arc - With Robert of Baudricourt

"The Departure of Jeanne d'Arc," by Jean-Jacques Scherrer. Online, courtesy
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