

0. JOAN WINS AT ORLEANS - 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 illumination, created by a now-unknown artist around 1484, is an artistic interpretation of Joan of Arc with the Dauphin (soon to be officially known as Charles VII) at Troyes. We see people of Troyes giving Joan and the Dauphin keys to their city. The work is included in *The Vigils of Charles VII*, manuscript of Martial d'Auvergne, circa 1484, BnF, Manuscrit Français 5054, folio 62, recto. The image is online via Gallica Digital Library (at the BnF) and Wikimedia Commons.

Joan led the French soldiers to ultimate victory at Orleans. On May 8, 1429, the seven-month siege was over.

Wounded by English arrows, Joan had shown great courage and continued to fight, despite her injuries. Her example inspired her soldiers to drive the English army out of Orleans. Ever since that victory, Joan was known as the "Maid of Orleans."

Joan continued to fight in the region until she and her soldiers drove the English army out of the Loire valley. Her army had become a formidable fighting unit.

As Joan and her troops approached the English army at Patay, many of the enemy and their commander, Sir John Fastolfe, reportedly fled before the fighting really started. Because he had been a coward, Sir John was later stripped of some of his honors. Joan, on the other hand, achieved a stunning victory at Patay.

Once the English were out of Rheims, Joan took the dauphin to the Cathedral for his coronation. They passed through several towns, including the city of Troyes—remember the infamous treaty?—where the people of that town gave Joan and the soon-to-be-crowned King keys to the city.

On July 17, 1429 the dauphin was crowned Charles VII. Joan had accomplished a significant part of her mission. For her valiant efforts, Joan of Arc was given a place of honor at the coronation. She sat next to the king. Charles VII also bestowed nobility status on Joan and her family.

Several French noblemen were loyal to Joan, and to the king, and helped to rid the Loire Valley of English occupation. One of these men, Gilles de Rais, fought courageously at Joan's side. As one of his first official acts, Charles VII appointed de Rais, one of the wealthiest men in Europe, Marshall of France.

However, de Rais lost his place of honor in French life after Joan's death. He had committed horrifying murders and became one of the most notorious serial killers in the history of crime. Although he expressed remorse after his conviction, he was still executed by hanging.

After he was dead, de Rais' body was burned. French officials wanted to rid France forever of the scourge that he had become.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/JOAN-WINS-AT-ORLEANS-Joan-of-Arc>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/JOAN-WINS-AT-ORLEANS-Joan-of-Arc>

Media Stream

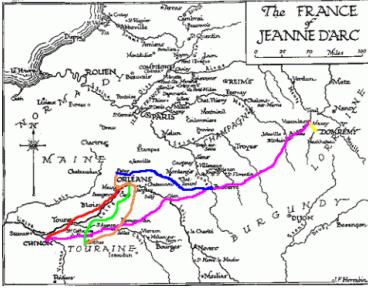


Joan of Arc - Leading the Army

Image online, courtesy [Nicholas Roerich Virtual Museum](#).

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Map Depicting Joan of Arc's Army Movements

Image online, courtesy the [Southern Methodist University website](#).

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Gilles de Rais

Image online, courtesy [Wikimedia Commons](#).

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Hanging of de Rais

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