



0. Marie Antoinette - Story Preface

1. A ROYAL CHILDHOOD
2. THE YOUNG ANTOINETTE
3. WEDDING at the PALACE of VERSAILLES
4. DEATH of LOUIS XV
5. A GROWING RESENTMENT
6. CHILDREN of MARIE ANTOINETTE
7. THE DIAMOND NECKLACE AFFAIR
8. THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
9. EXECUTION of LOUIS XVI
10. THE GUILLOTINE
11. TRIAL of MARIE ANTOINETTE
12. MARIE ANTOINETTE and the GUILLOTINE
13. Louis XVII - CHILD PRISONER
14. DNA EVIDENCE and LOUIS XVII

Portrait of Marie Antoinette painted by Vigée-Lebrun in 1779. Maintained by the Palace of Versailles. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*Courage!
I have shown it for years;
think you I shall lose it
at the moment when my sufferings are to end?*

Marie Antoinette
Queen of France

Marie Theresa, mother of sixteen children, had the best interests of her country in mind when she selected a husband for her daughter. A meaningful political alliance, not a love match, was most important to the Empress as she determined the future of her youngest girl.

At fifteen - the average age of a high-school sophomore - Marie Antoinette (then called Antoine) left her family's home in Vienna to solidify an Austro-Hungarian alliance with France (previously longstanding enemies). Within four years, the young foreigner would become queen of her adoptive country.

Had she lived to learn her child's fate, Antoinette's mother - the daughter of Charles VI and the only woman to be Empress of the Holy Roman Empire - would surely have regretted her political-marriage decision.

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Marie-Antoinette>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Marie-Antoinette>



Marie Antoinette - 1769 Portrait

Image of the young Marie Antoinette, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marie-Antoinette-1769-Portrait>



Maria Theresa - Mother of Marie Antoinette

Image online, courtesy the nndb.com website.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Maria-Theresa-Mother-of-Marie-Antoinette>



Marie Antoinette, Age 16

Joseph Kreutzinger painted this pastel-on-parchment of the future Queen in 1771.
The original is currently maintained at the Schönbrunn Palace.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marie-Antoinette-Age-16>



Marie Antoinette, Age 7

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Marie-Antoinette-Age-7>



Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Holy-Roman-Emperor-Charles-VI>



Empress Maria Theresa

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Empress-Maria-Theresa>