

Film Questions - *Joan of Arc*
World History & Geography 1 - Rev 8/15/02

Name _____

Discussion is fine, but please do not copy answers from another student.

1. Are there any historical fallacies in the text at the beginning of the movie?

2. Why were the French fighting the English?

3. Did Joan's father do the right thing in turning away the wandering peasants who were begging for food? Explain.

4. Why were the peasants wandering?

5. When Joan showed up at the royal court in Chinon, how was she tested by Dauphin Charles?

6. What caused the delay in getting Joan's forces to Orleans?

7. Why did Joan hesitate to attack the English at Orleans?

8. What new weapon of war do we see at the battle at Orleans?

9. How successful was Joan's army in capturing Paris?

10. Did Joan receive a fair trial? Explain your answer.

11. Do you think Joan really was a saint sent by God to help the French, or was she simply crazy? Explain your answer.

Joan of Arc

The setting of the film

The year is 1429, nearing the end of the Middle Ages. For many years England and France have been fighting over who will occupy the French throne, an Englishman or a Frenchman. This conflict will come to be known in history as the Hundred Years' War.

The English and their allies have taken control of most of France, and things are looking grim for the French patriots. Then, a very unusual thing happens. An illiterate teen-aged peasant girl from a farming village in northeastern France shows up at the French royal court in Chinon saying she has been sent by God to lead the French to victory over the English. The French, being very desperate, give her a chance. This is the story of that mysterious French peasant girl.

Cast of Major Characters (in order of appearance)

Jeanne D'Arc (Joan of Arc) - At the age of thirteen, Joan starts hearing voices and seeing visions of saints who say that God has chosen her to show France how it can save itself from the English. Because she is from the village of Domremy in the Lorraine region of France, some people come to believe she is the "Maid of Lorraine." An old legend had prophesied, "Out of the oak forests of the Lorraine will come a virgin to save France."

Joan cuts her hair and starts dressing as a warrior. After her army defeats the English in a battle at Orleans, Joan is known as the "Maid of Orleans," or simply, "The Maid." During battle, Joan always places herself at the front of French forces, and she is twice wounded. After a year of fighting, Joan is captured by her enemies, accused of heresy, and placed on trial by a Catholic church court controlled by the English. She is found guilty and condemned to a horrible death. Centuries later she will be declared a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

Sir Robert de Baudricourt - He is a local French lord who should be protecting the people of Joan's village from their enemies. Instead he takes the poor villagers' livestock. Joan finally convinces Sir Robert to send her to the French royal court at Chinon to meet Dauphin Charles.

Jean de Metz (John) - He is a knight and vassal to Sir Robert. He escorts Joan to Chinon and later joins her army.

Dauphin Charles - A dauphin is the son of a French king and heir to the throne. Dauphin Charles is young and indecisive when he meets Joan. After Joan's victories, France gains a new spirit of hope, and Charles is crowned king of France in the great Gothic cathedral at Reims. Thus, he becomes Charles VII. After Joan is captured, Charles makes no effort to save her.

Bishop Cauchon - He is a Catholic bishop who does not trust Joan. He later presides over the trial in which Joan is accused of being a heretic.

Captain La Hire - He is an experienced French military commander who joins Joan's cause.

the Burgundians - Burgundy is a region of eastern France, and Burgundy supports the English in the Hundred Years' War. After Joan is captured by Burgundian soldiers, Philip, the Duke of Burgundy, sells Joan to the English who place her on trial.