

# Joan of Arc

In 1328, the French king died without leaving an heir to the throne. England's King Edward III said he had the right to the French throne. So, England went to war to take control of France. The French fought back. Once the fighting started, both sides refused to give up the struggle. The Hundred Years' War lasted from 1337 until 1453. The entire war was fought in France.

At first, the English won several victories. The English army had a powerful new weapon called the longbow. It was six feet long and could shoot three arrows at a time. The longbow arrows could pierce strong armor and could be shot farther than arrows from a French soldier's crossbow. The English victories hurt French morale. The French thought England was probably going to bring France under its control. They started to give up hope.

In 1429, a 17-year-old peasant named Joan of Arc came to see Charles VII, the uncrowned king of France. She told Charles that God had sent her to save France. Joan said that heavenly voices told her to help Charles drive the English out of France. She talked him into letting her lead the French army against the English.

Joan of Arc inspired the French troops and gave them new confidence. On May 7, 1429, Joan led the French into battle against an English fort that blocked the road to Orléans. The city had been under siege, or held captive, for over six months. The city's defenders could not hold out much longer. Joan and the French army won the battle, and the siege of Orléans was broken. While helping to lift the siege, Joan wrote a letter to the king of England. It said, "You, men of England, who have no right to the kingdom of France, the King of Heaven sends the order through me, Joan the Maid, to return to your own country."

Allies of the English took Joan of Arc prisoner. In 1430, she was turned over to the English. The Church put Joan on trial for witchcraft because she had claimed to hear voices. Joan of Arc was found guilty and burned at the stake. Later, the Church changed its mind and declared her a saint.

After Joan of Arc was killed, the French saw her as a martyr, someone who had died for their cause. They gathered new strength. The French attacked British castles with a new weapon, the cannon. By the time the war finally ended in 1453, the English held only one small piece of French land.





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## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. France fought against \_\_\_\_\_ in the Hundred Years' War.

- A. Spain
- B. Belgium
- C. England
- D. Portugal

2. The English \_\_\_\_\_ could shoot three arrows in the time it took a French soldier to shoot one.

- A. crossbow
- B. cannon
- C. catapult
- D. longbow

3. The French used a new weapon, the \_\_\_\_\_, to attack British castles.

- A. crossbow
- B. cannon
- C. catapult
- D. longbow

4. The Church put Joan of Arc on trial for \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. treason
- B. murder
- C. witchcraft
- D. fortune telling

5. \_\_\_\_\_ won the Hundred Years' War.

- A. France
- B. England
- C. Germany
- D. Spain





## Quiz: Joan of Arc

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### True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. France won the Hundred Years' War.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Joan of Arc was found guilty of witchcraft and hanged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Joan of Arc said heavenly voices told her to help Charles VII drive the French out of England.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Edward III was the uncrowned king of France.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The French started to give up hope after the English won several victories.

### Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The English longbow could fire \_\_\_\_\_ arrow(s) in the time it took a French crossbow to shoot one arrow.
- A. one
  - B. two
  - C. three
  - D. four

7. Joan of Arc led the French army into battle and broke the siege at \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Avignon
  - B. Crécy
  - C. Bordeaux
  - D. Orléans

### Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Name two new weapons that were used during the Hundred Years' War.

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