

Louis XIV (1638-1715)

- ◉ King of France, absolute monarch
- ◉ Came to throne in 1643 at age of 5.
- ◉ Ruled 72 years, 3 months, 18 days
- ◉ Named himself the “Sun King”
- ◉ L’Etat C’est Moi
- ◉ Commissioned 300 portraits of himself



The Splendors of Versailles

- 2,000 acres of grounds
- 12 miles of roads
- 27 miles of trellises
- 200,000 trees
- 210,000 flowers planted every year
- 80 miles of rows of trees
- 55 acres: surface area of the Grand Canal
- 3.3 miles: perimeter of the Grand Canal
- 12 miles of enclosing walls
- 50 fountains
- 620 fountain nozzles
- 21 miles of water conduits





- 3,600 cubic meters per hour: water consumed during Full Play of Fountains
- 26 acres of roof
- 51,210 square meters of floors
- 2,153 windows
- 700 rooms
- 67 staircases
- 6,000 paintings
- 1,500 drawings and 15,000 engravings
- 2,100 sculptures
- 5,000 items of furniture and objets d'art
- 150 varieties of apple and peach trees in the Vegetable Garden



Facts About Versailles

- In the early days of Versailles, fountain guards were ordered to whistle when Louis XIV approached, so that the fountains could be fully turned on.





















- A hat and a sword could be hired at the front gate in order to be properly attired to visit the Grand Apartment. Monks were not allowed in.

- Thefts were frequent at Versailles, despite the guards and staff. Once during the king's levee the royal doctor had his watch stolen.

- A secret passage ran from the queen's private cabinets to those of the king. It enabled Marie-Antoinette to escape revolutionary rioters in October 1789.