

## French History Matching History Makers

### Introduction for students:

European history is replete with connections to France, named for the Franks, a Germanic people who conquered Gaul during the 5<sup>th</sup> century, at the fall of the Western Roman Empire. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century, France became a separate country. Since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, France has been a major player in European and world events.

See if you can match some of the important leaders in French history with their partner, who might be a spouse, another political figure, or even a nemesis! (Parental relationships are not an option here.)

### Teacher's Guide

These are the history makers (#1) matched with their partner (#2):

History Makers #1	History Makers #2
Louis XIV	Marquis Nicolas Fouquet
Louis XIII	Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu Cardinal Richelieu
Louis XVI	Marie Antoinette
Napoléon	Arthur Wellesley Duke of Wellington
Henri IV	Marie de Médicis
Henri II	Catherine de Médicis
Charles de Gaulle	Marshal Philippe Pétain
Napoléon III	Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann
Charles VII	Jeanne d'Arc
Nicolas Sarkozy	Carla Bruni

### Activity suggestions for the teacher:

N.B. The names of the History Makers #1 and #2 are provided in the files in two formats: "Sticky Notes\_ Labels.doc"\* and "Sticky Notes in pdf."

1. Give students the name of one of the 20 names from French history on an individual slip of paper. (Either run them as a sheet of labels\* or cut them out from the two attached sheets, which are arranged as sticky notes.) Students are to find the History Maker #1 who best matches History Maker #2 and announce a match.  
\* Avery 5263 mailing labels, 2" X 4", 5 rows, 2 columns, 10 labels per sheet

2. If students are not familiar with these history makers, they could be given the names ahead of time to research, either one name or all the names.
3. Students could be given the brief biographical information provided in this activity, but with the names redacted, to complete their match.
4. If there are more than 20 students in class, additional paired names might be given, extending the search beyond political history, e.g., Abélard and Héloïse, Van Gogh and Gauguin, Jean-Paul Marat and Charlotte Corday, and George Sand (Amandine Aurore Lucile Dupin) and Frédéric Chopin.
5. Students could also work in small groups to match a copy of the redacted biographical information to the slips with the history makers.
6. Project portraits (photographs) of the history makers from the Internet to add another cultural dimension and to help students make new connections to retain the information from the activity.

### **Information about the paired History Makers #1 and #2**

**Louis XIII** reigned as King of France and Navarre and from 1610 to 1643 and Armand-Jean du Plessis, **Cardinal Richelieu** was the chief minister of France from 1624-1642. The cardinal increased the power of the monarch by thwarting the Huguenots and nobles. In Dumas' *The Three Musketeers*, Richelieu is portrayed as the evil adversary.  
<http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/france/tp/keymomentsfrance.01.htm>

**Louis XIV**, known as the Sun King, had the longest reign of any European monarch, (1643-1715), and built a splendid court at Versailles, which was imitated by other European monarchs. The Palace of Versailles is often thought to be an embellishment of Nicolas Fouquet's own castle, Vaux-le-Vicomte. Jealous of Fouquet's wealth and opulence and suspicious of his management of state (Louis XIV's) funds, Louis XIV sent his powerful and corrupt finance minister, **Nicolas Fouquet**, to prison for life.  
<http://www.louis-xiv.de/index.php?id=31>

**Louis XVI**, King of France, 1774-91, is considered a weak, ineffective king, divorced from the problems facing France. Guillotined during the French Revolution, Louis XVI was married to **Marie-Antoinette**, an Austrian princess, who was born in Vienna in 1755 and died at the guillotine in 1793. The queen, very unpopular because of her extravagant life-style and her foreign background, was unable to conform to the rules of courtly society. It is only a legend that she said of the French peasants at the time of bread shortage, "Let them eat cake!"  
<http://www.nndb.com/people/185/000085927/>

**Napoléon I**, (1769 -1821), Emperor of the French, launched numerous military campaigns and dominated Europe, placing family members and loyalists on the thrones of Holland, Westphalia, Italy, Naples, Spain and Sweden. He met his match at the Battle of Waterloo, 1815, when Arthur Wellesley, **Duke of Wellington**, was victorious over the French army, an event which marked the end of Napoleon's 100-days of return from

exile. The Duke went on to become Prime Minister of Great Britain, and Napoleon died, perhaps of arsenic poisoning, in exile on the remote Atlantic island of St. Helena.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/bonaparte\\_napoleon.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/bonaparte_napoleon.shtml)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur\\_Wellesley,\\_1st\\_Duke\\_of\\_Wellington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Wellesley,_1st_Duke_of_Wellington)

**Henri IV**, born 1553, ruled from 1589-1610. Henri was popular, and took great care to rule fairly. He was tolerant of both Protestants and Catholics, and during his reign the religious wars between the Huguenots and Catholics subsided. His second wife was **Marie de Médicis** (de' Medici), a princess of the Holy Roman Empire. While the marriage was not a great success – Catherine quarreled with a series of “official” mistresses of the king – the succession of the Bourbon line was assured with the birth of Louis XIII. After Henri's assassination she ruled France as regent from 1610-1617. It was during her regency that Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu first came to prominence.

<http://www.henri-iv.com/>

**Henry II** (1519 – 1559), ruled from 1547 - 1559. The second son of Francis I, he ascended the throne after the death of his elder brother, Francis III of Brittany. Henri ruled in a turbulent period. France was moving from a feudal period – Henri was killed in a jousting contest – and the times were rife with religious and territorial conflicts. By all accounts he entered into the conflicts with enthusiasm, and persecuted the Protestants as fervently as he could. Married at the age of 14 to **Catherine de Médicis (de' Medici)**, also 14, he acquired a mistress **Diane de Poitiers**, aged 35, in the following year. The two women fought bitterly, and while Diane was ascendent for all of Henri's life, on his death Catherine had her revenge, banishing Diane from her favorite castle, Chenonceau.  
<http://www.answers.com/topic/henry-ii-king-of-france>.

**Charles VII. Charles VII** (1403 – 1461), called **the Victorious** ruled from 1422. The fifth son of [Charles VI](#), and claimed the throne after all four of his elder brothers died childless. His succession to the throne was anything but smooth, since the British also claimed the throne of France and occupied northern France. He was, however, famously crowned in [Reims](#) in 1429 through the endeavors of **Jeanne d'Arc**, the maid of Orleans, to free France from the English. The reign of Charles VII was a successful one in many respects, and he left the nation far more coherent and united than when he assumed the throne. On the other hand, Charles is not particularly attractive as an individual, since he did nothing at all to save Jeanne d'Arc when she was captured by the British and burned at the stake (for heresy, or perhaps more likely, for being a feminist before her time.) Jeanne, that early feminist, is widely remembered and honored by the French. There is a beautiful golden statue of Jeanne on a horse, carrying the banner of France, in front of the Louvre.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/charles-vii>

**Charles de Gaulle** (1890-1970), named after an airport near Paris (!), was a prominent leader of the Free French during WWII, and twice president of France (1944-1946; 1959-1969). Throughout his life, he was an abrasive critic of many things, and he was not

widely popular with either the French military before WWII, with his British allies, or with the Americans in the 1960s. While he was originally a protégé of **Marshal Phillippe Pétain**, the WWI French hero, he rebelled when the latter signed a peace treaty with the Germans in 1941. Pétain organized the Vichy government and De Gaulle fled to Britain, organized the Free French, and eventually returned to France in 1944. **Le Grand Charles** is a genuine hero of the French, with a statue on the Champs Élysées. Pétain was tried for collaboration (treason), sentenced to the firing squad, but that was commuted to life in prison by de Gaulle.

<http://econ161.berkeley.edu/TCEH/charlesdegaulle.html>

**Napoleon III** ( Louis-Napoleon) (1808-1873), was the nephew of Napoleon I, president of the second French Republic, and then emperor of that Second Republic (1852). While the second empire had authoritarian tendencies, and sent its criminals to spots like Devil's Island, it also had a progressive economic and social policy. France industrialized rapidly in this period, and the prosperity of the middle, urban classes was noteworthy. The Second Republic and the second Empire, 1848-1873, was a period of stability after many years of unrest in France. Under **Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann**, Paris itself was rebuilt, a project that destroyed much of the medieval city. It is estimated that 60% of Paris' buildings were transformed in this period. Many of the wide boulevards that we now celebrate were constructed in this period.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/louis-bonaparte>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baron\\_Haussmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baron_Haussmann)

**Nicolas Sarkozy** (1955 - ) was the President of the French Republic from 2007 to 2012. He is conservative, a law-and-order politician, who had a mixed record on immigration. Himself the son of an immigrant Hungarian, he has expressed considerable hostility toward other ethnic groups, particularly North African and sub-Saharan Africans, famously referring to the rioters in Paris suburbs as “racaille” (literally, scum.) Reportedly he is not lacking in self-esteem. In 2008 he married his third wife **Carla Bruni** (1967 - ), an Italian model and singer, whose choice of haute couture clothes and activities as France's First Lady were followed closely by the international press. Since leaving the presidency, he has been tried for corruption in the French courts.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas\\_Sarkozy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicolas_Sarkozy)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carla\\_Bruni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carla_Bruni)