

# JOAN OF ARC

A re-creation of her 1431 trial for treason

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## PURPOSE

# Joan of Arc

The story is well known: A peasant girl named Joan claimed to hear the voices of saints who implored her to lead the French army against the forces of England and Burgundy. Eventually, Joan was captured, tried for heresy, burned at the stake, and later canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Perhaps less well known are the reasons behind the accusations. The trial of Joan of Arc was closely linked to the decline of feudalism and the rise of European nation-states. Further, Joan's ordeal was a result of the struggle for succession to the French and English thrones which had been closely linked since 1066. Looming above the events of the trial was a larger question: Who is the real king of France?

The purpose of this simulation is to re-enact the trial of Joan of Arc and enable students to consider the following questions:

- *Upon what basis can a government claim to be legitimate?*
- *What role did strong monarchies have in the development of Western Europe?*
- *What are the positive and negative effects of nationalism?*
- *Was Joan a patriot? a traitor? a revolutionary?*

As your students participate in the activity, they should experience the following:

### **Knowledge**

1. Understanding of the importance of the rise of nation states to European civilization
2. Understanding of the relationship of the Roman Catholic Church to European monarchies

### **Attitudes**

1. Appreciation of the difficulty of establishing a government's legitimacy
2. Realization that nationalism can have both positive and negative results

### **Skills**

1. Speaking clearly and forcefully before a group
2. Evaluating evidence to reach conclusions



## OVERVIEW

The trial of Joan of Arc re-creates the famous events of 1431 in which Joan, a country girl from Domremy, was accused of heresy. The prosecution will attempt to prove that Joan was a traitor who made false claims of divine inspiration in order to oppose the legitimate government of France. The defense will cast Joan as a patriot who forged an inept French army into a powerful fighting force in order to restore Charles VII to his rightful place on the French throne. Although in real life Joan was charged in 12 articles, the author has chosen to simplify and reduce the charges to two:

1. that she committed treason against the legitimate government of France; and
2. that she falsely claimed divine inspiration in order to persuade others to perform acts of violence.



*The statue of  
Joan of Arc  
in Reims,  
France*

The real trial of Joan of Arc was actually a prolonged inquisition in which Pierre Cauchon, bishop of Beauvais, presided. The bishop had sold his services to the English and made no attempt to conduct fair judicial proceedings. Joan was charged with heresy because she was a prisoner of war and was protected by numerous conventions between the belligerents. If Joan was to be put to death and prevented from rallying the French army in the future, a trial was necessary. A church trial was chosen as the best means of keeping criticism to a minimum.



## HISTORICAL ACCURACY

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This simulation will address the larger questions of the legitimacy of the government of France rather than focusing on trumped-up heresy charges. The following changes were made to adapt the historical trial to a modern classroom:

1. In the real trial 117 persons were at court. They included priests, theologians, and doctors who were present at the examination.
2. Although the simulation's defense lawyer and witnesses were real historical characters who showed friendship or compassion for Joan, none of them spoke on her behalf during the actual trial. Neither did the prosecution's witnesses take the stand against Joan, although they all played a role in her conviction.
3. Joan did not take the witness stand in the historical trial. She stood before her examiners and responded to their questions. In the simulation she is represented by defense counsel so that both sides of the controversy can be explored and so that a maximum number of students can be involved.

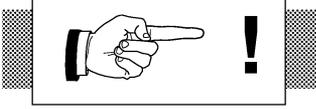


*Be certain that you cover the three points above briefly before the trial—and more thoroughly during debriefing.*



## SETUP DIRECTIONS - 1

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1. Role selection is very important to this activity. Pick your most highly motivated students to be **Joan** and the attorneys.
2. Either select a strong student to be **Pierre Cauchon, bishop of Beauvais**, or play the role yourself. This individual functions as the head of the court and must be able to keep the activity running smoothly. *If you have any doubts about one of your students being strong or tough enough to play this crucial role, play it yourself.*
3. Chief prosecutor **Jean d'Estivet** will be assisted by two attorneys:
  - **Pierre Morice** In the actual trial he was a doctor of theology who read the 12 articles of accusation to Joan.
  - **Jean Beaupere** In the actual trial he was a pro-English priest who examined Joan.
4. Joan's chief defense lawyer will be **Jean de la Fontaine**. He will be assisted by two people:
  - **Ysambard de la Pierre** and **Jean Duval** In the historical trial both were Dominican monks who showed kindness toward Joan. The former attempted to give Joan a fair trial by transferring the case to the Church Council in Switzerland. He was unsuccessful in that endeavor.
5. Select or allow students to volunteer for witness roles. Witnesses for the prosecution are **Jean de Luxembourg, the duke of Bedford, the duke of Burgundy**, and **Nicolas Loiseleur**. Witnesses for the defense include **Robert de Baudricourt, the archbishop of Reims, the duke d'Alencon**, and the defendant, **Joan of Arc**.
6. **Jean Le Maitre** will perform the role of bailiff by swearing in witnesses and keeping order. (In the historical trial Le Maitre was the representative of the Inquisition, the body that was responsible for seeking out and punishing heretics. He attended Joan's trial unwillingly; his responsibility was to be certain that proceedings were conducted in accordance with Church law.)
7. The recording clerk is **Manchon**, who performed that role in the actual trial and resisted Cauchon's attempts to alter the testimony.
8. The remaining students will be **jurors** who will render a verdict. As in the actual trial, Joan will be found guilty unless proven innocent.
9. Encourage all students to supplement the information you give them by doing more research on their own. You may wish to award grades based on the following factors: preparation, role-playing, and testing.



## SETUP DIRECTIONS - 2

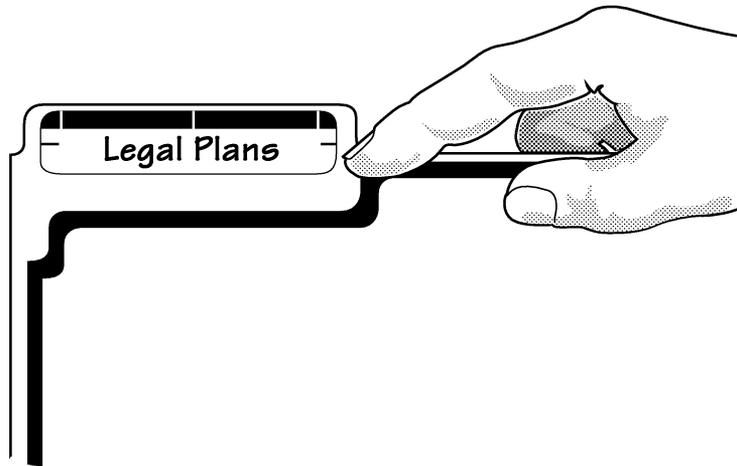


**Important:**

*Take these eight handouts and staple a set together—one for each student. Call this cluster a Student Guide. Make one for each student.*

10. About a week before the trial, duplicate the following materials—in the number found in parentheses after the capitalized handout.
- STUDENT SURVEY (1 for each student)
  - TEST (1 for each student)
  - PURPOSE, OVERVIEW, HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY, BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES, ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES, and COURT PROCEDURES (1 for each student)
  - INDIVIDUAL WITNESS HANDOUTS (1 per role)
  - JUROR HANDOUTS (1 per juror)
  - LEGAL PLAN FOR PROSECUTION (4; one for each attorney and one for Pierre Cauchon)
  - LEGAL PLAN FOR DEFENSE (4; one for each attorney and one for Cauchon)

*You will likely wish to organize handouts into separate folders.*





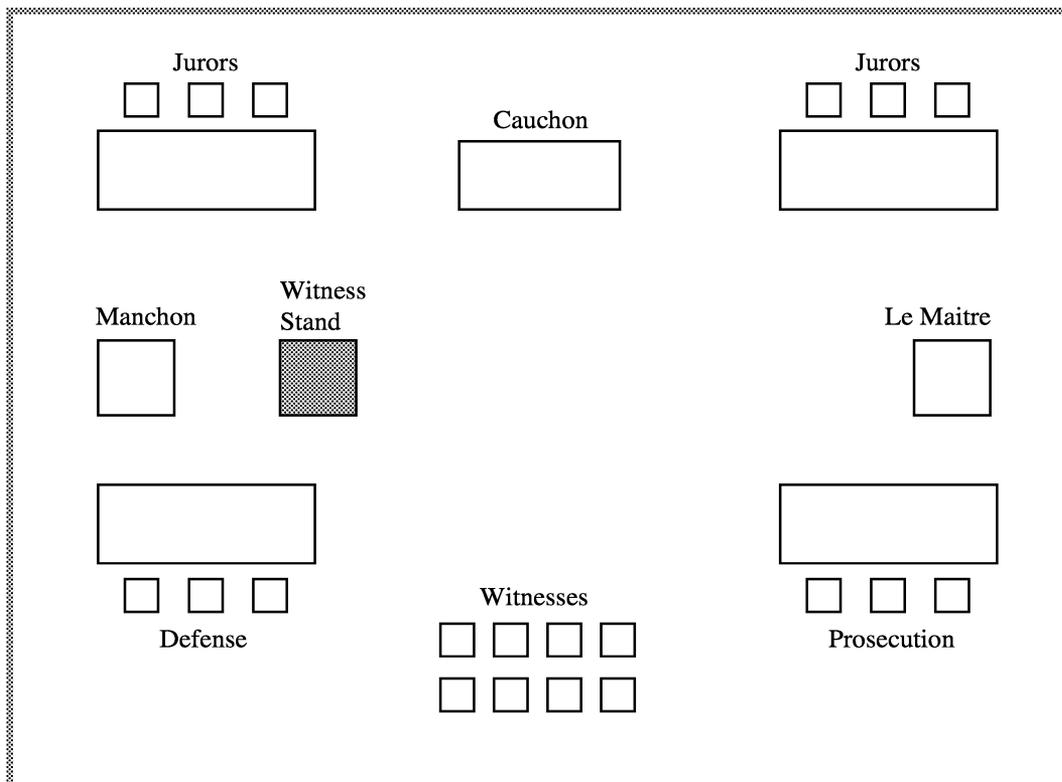
# TEACHING SUGGESTIONS - 1

## Three days before trial: Introduction

1. Briefly explain to students why they are going to study this trial. Then pass out Student Guides and have students read the PURPOSE, OVERVIEW, and BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES.
2. Assign roles and give students copies of their individual ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES.
3. Have everyone read the HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY, and discuss the concluding questions with the class.

## Day 1: Background and preparation

1. Give class the PRE-TRIAL SURVEY.
2. Arrange students in cooperative learning groups to discuss their responses.
3. Allow time for individual role preparation.
4. Decide how you will physically arrange the room for the trial. Here is a possible arrangement:





## TEACHING SUGGESTIONS - 2

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### Days 2-3: The Trial

1. The actual number of periods devoted to the trial will vary according to the length of testimony, amount of questioning, extent of research, level of student interest, and your judgment.
2. Make sure all participants are positioned in their proper places. If someone is absent, replace the student immediately and give the stand-in the correct background sheet. (**Note:** For added interest, Joan may want to dress in male attire, and have short, cropped hair; the clergy may don robes.)
3. Before beginning the trial, ask if there are any questions. Remind the jury that, contrary to our legal system, Joan is presumed guilty until proven innocent.
4. Send Pierre Cauchon out of the room. Instruct Le Maitre to open the door for the bishop and announce that the court is in session. At this point the trial is turned over to Cauchon, who will follow the COURT PROCEDURE.
5. When the trial has concluded, immediately ask jury members the reasons for their verdict. Then ask witnesses how they would have voted had they been on the jury.

### Day 3: Debriefing and Testing

1. The following questions should serve as a discussion guide following the conclusion of the trial:



*Take time to draw out students' knowledge and reactions to the re-creation.*

#### **Debriefing Questions**

- a. Could England and France have been united as one nation? Why or why not?
  - b. Why was heresy considered a serious crime during the time of Joan of Arc?
  - c. Did the English accomplish their objective in bringing Joan to trial? Why or why not?
  - d. Was nationalism a positive or negative force during Joan's life?
  - e. Could strong nations have developed without the rise of strong kings? Explain.
2. Conclude the activity by giving the UNIT TEST.  
Here is the key to the answers:  
1. d, 2. b, 3. a, 4. d, 5. c, 6. c, 7. b, 8. c, 9. c, 10. a



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Aymar, Brant and Edward Sagarin. *A Pictorial History of the World's Great Trials*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1985.

Buchan, Alice. *Joan of Arc and the Recovery of France*. Hodder & Stoughton Limited, 1948.

\*Churchill, Winston. *Heroes of History*. Dodd, Mead, & Company, 1968.

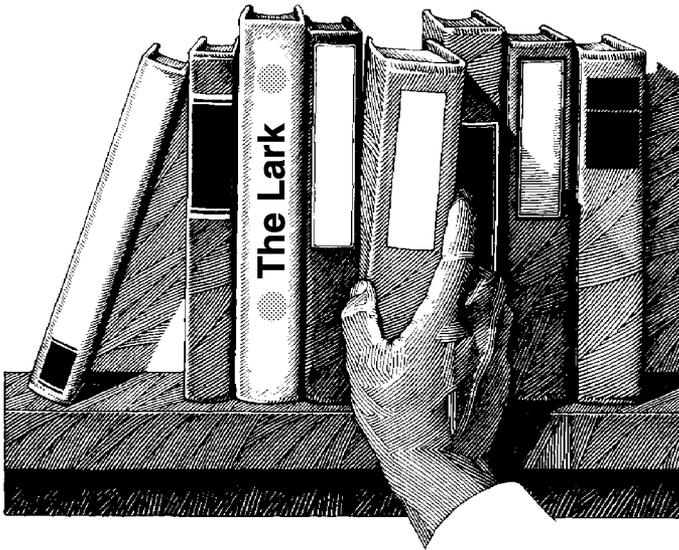
\*Falkus, Malcolm and John Gillingham. *Historical Atlas of Great Britain*. Kingfisher Books, 1987.

\*McKown, Robin. *Seven Famous Trials in History*. Vanguard Press, 1963.

\*Paine, Albert B. *The Girl in White Armor*. Macmillan, 1927.

Sacville-West, V. *Saint Joan of Arc*. Country Life Press, 1936.

\* Books which are appropriate for younger readers.



Contact your friendly school librarian in advance of your beginning the unit. Ask that a **Reserve shelf: JOAN OF ARC** be set up for your students a week or so in advance.



# PRE-TRIAL SURVEY

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Your name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Circle **SA**, if you strongly agree; **A**, if you agree; **NO**, if you have no opinion; **D**, if you disagree; **SD**, if you strongly disagree.

1. A nation should be composed of people who speak the same language.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

2. A person who leads an army to overthrow an established government is guilty of treason.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

3. Leadership of a country should go to the person who possesses the most military strength.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

4. Kingship should be passed along through families.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

5. Kingship should always be granted to the oldest son of the royal family.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

6. Churches should stay out of politics.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

7. Waging war for your country is a good thing.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**

8. Women are natural military leaders.

**SA**      **NO**      **D**      **SD**



# UNIT TEST - 1

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Multiple choice

1. The first French duke to become king of England was
  - a. Richard the Lion-Hearted
  - b. Henry VIII
  - c. Henry V
  - d. William the Conqueror.
  
2. The Hundred Years War was fought between
  - a. England and Normandy
  - b. England and France
  - c. France and Burgundy
  - d. England and Scotland.
  
3. The dauphin was
  - a. the son of the French king
  - b. a leader in the Roman Catholic Church
  - c. the duke of Burgundy
  - d. none of the above.
  
4. Joan of Arc was
  - a. a gentlewoman
  - b. a French princess
  - c. a general
  - d. a peasant.
  
5. During the trial of Joan of Arc, the Burgundians were allies of
  - a. the French
  - b. the Spanish
  - c. the English
  - d. the Moors.
  
6. In real life Joan of Arc was tried by
  - a. the king of England
  - b. the king of France
  - c. the Roman Catholic Church
  - d. the duke of Burgundy.



## UNIT TEST - 2

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Normandy is in
  - a. England
  - b. France
  - c. the Netherlands
  - d. Spain.
  
8. Kings frequently sought to increase their power through
  - a. marriage
  - b. conquest
  - c. both a and b
  - d. none of the above.
  
9. During Joan's life, there was disagreement over the identity of the real king of France. This was largely due to the fact that
  - a. no one wanted to be king
  - b. there were no male heirs
  - c. the English and French royal families were closely related
  - d. the French did not regard themselves as a nation.
  
10. In real life, Joan of Arc was
  - a. presumed guilty until proven innocent
  - b. presumed innocent until proven guilty.



### Essay questions

1. In your view, was Joan of Arc guilty of any serious offenses? Give reasons to support your answer.
  
2. Based on the evidence you have seen, who was the rightful king of France—Henry VI or Charles VII? On what basis would you grant this claim to the throne?



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 1

## **TWO SUGGESTED STUDY TECHNIQUES:**

*Consider using one of these two techniques while working with this BACKGROUND ESSAY:*

**1.** *Look over the questions at the end of the essay before beginning serious studying of the essay. Note that key words have been typed in **bold ink**. Then while studying, look for answers to the seven questions.*

**2.** *Read the essay first. Study it carefully, paying attention to the bold ink headings at the beginning of the paragraphs. (You should consider using a colored highlighting pen to mark key specific details that substantiate the **bold ink** headings.) Then after finishing the essay, try to answer the seven questions appearing at the end of the essay without looking back through the essay.*

**William the Conqueror** The French and English thrones have been closely linked since 1066 when William, Duke of Normandy (in the northwestern part of France), invaded England with 5,000 infantry and 2,000 knights. On Christmas Day “William the Conqueror” was crowned king of England. In the years that followed, William fought internal resistance and outside invasion and strengthened his hold on the English throne. One of the ways in which he did this was by building castles at strategic points throughout the country. Another was by taking land away from many of the native English nobility and giving it to his Norman followers. Over a period of time, Normans intermarried with the native English, and the French speech of the Normans became incorporated into the English language. William’s ascension to the English throne meant that from then on, the king of England would also be a French duke. William, however, barely acknowledged that he was subordinate to the French monarch and acted as king whether he was in Normandy or England.

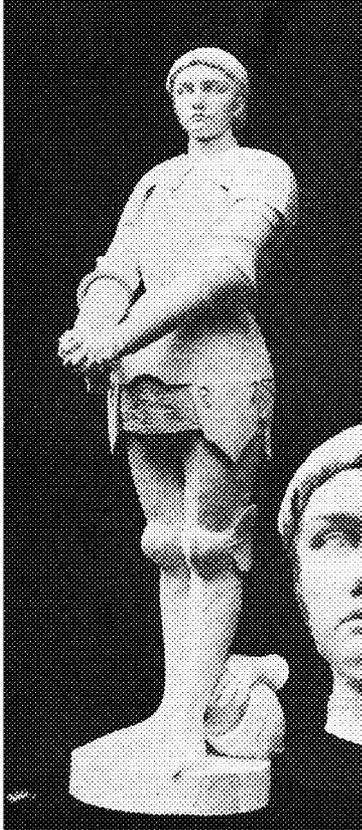
**Anglo-French empire** Following William’s reign, France and England continued to be closely connected. When William the Conqueror’s great-grandson (Henry II) married the French Eleanor of Aquitaine in 1152, the Anglo-French empire was extended to include the whole of western France. During the reign of Henry III, however, England and France began to draw apart when the King voluntarily gave up his claim to some French lands and agreed to keep his reduced French holdings in homage to the king of France.

The English monarch Edward I decided to increase the interdependence of the two thrones by arranging for the marriage of his young son, Edward (later Edward II), to the French King Philip IV’s little daughter Isabelle. When the child of that marriage became Edward III of England, the French throne was for a time threatened with vacancy. Through his mother’s line, Edward III was the next heir to the French monarchy. To prevent him from occupying both thrones, the French hurriedly passed a law which disallowed inheritance through a woman. Edward III brushed the law aside and fought a series of wars with France which continued through five English and five French reigns. Collectively these conflicts are known as the Hundred Years’ War.



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 2

Jeanne d' Arc by Barrios  
The Library of Congress



**The Hundred Years War** The first phase of the Hundred Years' War ended in 1360 when Edward III, facing a money shortage and problems at home, decided to temporarily relinquish his claim to the throne of France. He insisted, however, on his claim to French lands which he had inherited or had acquired by marriage. In 1364 Charles V became king of France. He ruled in an arbitrary manner and imposed heavy taxes, yet came to be known as The Wise. Upon his death France plunged into civil war.

The dead king's son, who became Charles VI at age 11, suffered from mental illness. His uncles, the dukes of Anjou, Berry, Burgundy, and Bourbon, were all ambitious and quarrelsome with one another. When the mad Charles VI signed a treaty bequeathing the French crown to his son-in-law, Henry V of England, thus disowning his own son, Dauphin Charles, the tension heightened. Henry V of England died two years before the dauphin. Henry V's baby son Henry VI was placed under the acting regency of the English Duke of Bedford. The Duke of Burgundy and his followers, who were French, claimed that this baby was king of both France and England. Other Frenchmen maintained that the French crown belonged only to the dauphin. In the midst of this controversy, a peasant girl named Joan arrived at the town of Chinon in southwest France where the dauphin was staying and asked boldly to see him.

**Joan of Arc** Joan's real name was Jeanne Darc. (After her death, a poet called her Jeanne d'Arc, implying that she came from noble birth. In English this was translated as Joan of Arc.) Joan was from the humble hamlet of Domremy in the province of Lorraine. The 17-year-old girl claimed that while she was in the Vosges Forest near her home she heard the voices of St. Michel, St. Margaret and St. Catherine, who commanded her to lead the armies that would liberate France from invading English forces. Against her parents' wishes, Joan dressed in male attire and made a dangerous journey across France to see the dauphin. There among the nobles and courtiers in the great hall at Chinon, Joan recognized the dauphin, who had purposely mingled with the crowd. She announced that God had ordained that he would be crowned king of France in the city of Reims. Under Joan's leadership, the French drove the English army out of the fortress of Les Tourelles outside of Orleans, reversed the military situation and bolstered the sagging morale of the French forces. In 1429 in the cathedral at Reims, the dauphin was crowned Charles VII of France.

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*The 17-year-old girl claimed ... that she heard the voices of St. Michel, St. Margaret, and St. Catherine ...*

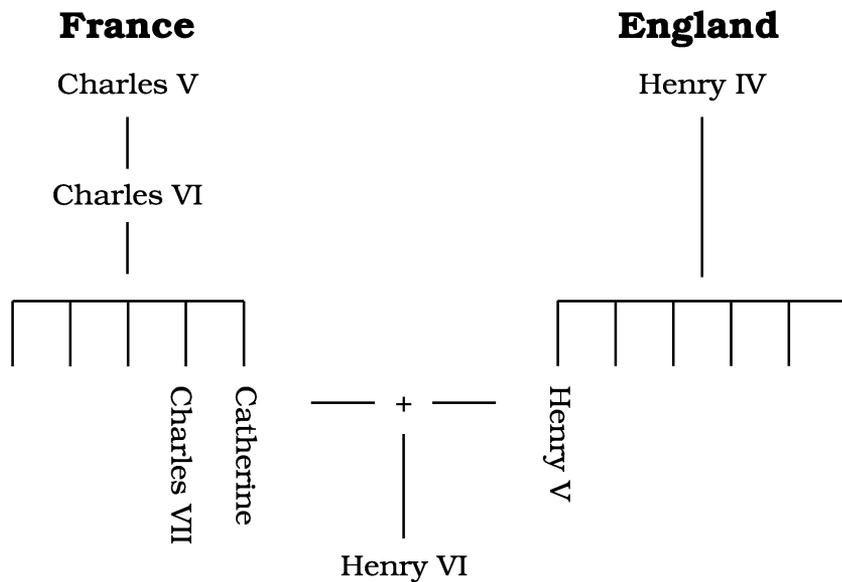
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# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 3

The new king ignored Joan’s pleas that he take Paris and counter the actions of his enemies: the Burgundians under Philip and the English under the duke of Bedford. On May 23, 1430, Joan led a sally from Compiene against the Burgundians. Joan was grabbed by an enemy archer and pulled from her horse. She surrendered and became a prisoner of the feudal overlord, Jean de Luxembourg, who was a vassal to Philip of Burgundy. Despite international law forbidding the sale of prisoners-of-war to the enemy, Philip agreed to turn Joan over to the English for 10,000 gold pounds, plus an annuity to Jean de Luxembourg. Joan was detained in a number of locations and finally brought to the castle of Rouen to await trial. On January 3, 1431, King Henry VII arrived in France and went directly to the castle of Rouen, where he signed the necessary papers for Joan to be tried by the Roman Catholic Church rather than civil authorities.

## Descent of the English and French Royal Houses



**For further information:**  
*Falkus, Malcolm and John Gillingham, Historical Atlas of Great Britain. King Fisher Books, 1987.*



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY - 4



Notice the **bold ink words and phrases at the right**. They are typed in bold in order to call your attention to what you are to look for while studying the **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND ESSAY**.

Good luck!

## Discussion Questions

1. Why were the **English and French thrones closely linked**? How might this cause **controversy** over who was the rightful king of France?
2. What was the **relationship of nobles to kings**? Why did the **duke of Normandy** sometimes ignore that relationship when dealing with the **king of France**?
3. Why were strong **monarchies** important to the development of **nation-states**?
4. Why would **Jeanne Darc's name** have been altered to make her appear to be a noblewoman?
5. Why would **Henry VI** have wanted Joan to be tried by the church rather than civil authorities?



*This statue of Joan of Arc is in Reims, France. Joan is facing the Cathedral of Reims.*



# BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES - 1

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**Note:**

*Each role will receive special identity handouts.*

**Pierre Cauchon, bishop of Beauvais** You are responsible for seeing that the trial is conducted according to procedure. Your role will be to have charges read against Joan, to keep testimony moving along smoothly, and to give a final speech in which you remind the jurors that Joan of Arc is presumed guilty until proven innocent.

**Joan of Arc** As defendant in the trial, you are charged on two counts: committing treason against the legitimate government of France, and falsely claiming divine inspiration in order to incite others to violence. You will take the stand to defend yourself by claiming that you have acted on behalf of Charles VII, the true king of France. Further, you will testify that the voices of saints have called you to engage in military actions against the English and Burgundians. Therefore, you are guilty of no crimes.

**Jean de Luxembourg** As the feudal overlord who held Joan of Arc in captivity, you will testify for the prosecution by giving details about her capture and imprisonment. You will also share your view that Joan of Arc misleads simple French peasants by claiming she is sent by God and knows His will.

**Nicolas Loiseleur** As a Catholic priest who acted as Joan's confessor during her imprisonment, you have come to know the defendant well. You are sincerely convinced that she is a heretic and will attempt to persuade the jury likewise. In your view, Joan's failure to follow orthodox church doctrine is the cause of her crimes.

**Duke of Bedford** You are the regent of Henry VI, whom you believe to be the rightful king of France. If this is true, then Joan of Arc, who leads armies against Henry VI, is guilty of treason. You feel that Joan is a sorceress who uses supernatural powers to persuade many French followers to engage in violent acts. Your purpose in testifying is to persuade the jury to find Joan "guilty."

**Philip, duke of Burgundy** As an ally of Henry VI, Joan of Arc is your enemy. In fact, you sold her to the English for 10,000 gold pounds, despite the fact that conventions regarding prisoners of war forbid sales of this nature. You feel justified in your action because you believe Joan of Arc is dangerous. Your role in testifying will be to convince jurors that Joan of Arc acts on her own behalf, apart from the wishes of any king. You feel you have evidence that proves Joan follows neither Charles VII nor Henry VI.



## BRIEF SUMMARY OF MAJOR ROLES - 2

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**Robert de Baudricourt** You arranged for Joan of Arc to be taken to Chinon to meet the dauphin, who was later crowned Charles VII of France. You found the maid possessed positive qualities which you will share with the jury as a defense witness. You hope to persuade the group to render a verdict of “not guilty.”

**Archbishop of Reims** As a high church official who has examined Joan of Arc and found her blameless, you will testify in her behalf to show that not all clergy find her objectionable. You feel the charges against Joan are purely political. You will attempt to demonstrate this to the jurors, in hopes of persuading them to give a “not guilty” verdict.

**John, the duke d’Alencon** As a friend of Joan and a cousin of Charles VII, you are anxious to see the maid cleared of all charges. You will attempt to show the jury that she is an inspiring military leader and a true French patriot. In your view, Joan is a heroine, not a traitor.

**Jean d’Estivet, Pierre Morice, and Jean Beaupere** As prosecuting attorneys, you will attempt to show that Joan of Arc is guilty on two counts: committing treason against the rightful king of France, Henry VI, and falsely claiming divine inspiration to incite others to acts of violence.

**Jean de la Fontaine, Ysambard de la Pierre, and Jean Duval** As the counsel for the defense, you will attempt to show that Joan is a French patriot who acts according to religious conviction. Since she has perpetrated no crimes, she should be found “not guilty.”

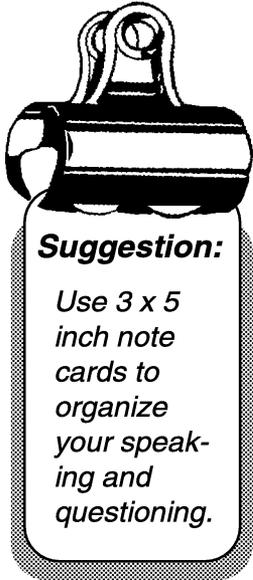
**Jean Le Maitre** Your role will be to see that the trial of Joan of Arc proceeds in an orderly manner, without disruption, and in accordance with the law. Your duty will be to read the charges against Joan, swear in witnesses, and maintain proper decorum in the courtroom at all times.

**Manchon** As recording clerk, your job will be to keep a fair and accurate record of all court proceedings.

**Jurors** As members of the jury, you are priests, doctors, and theologians who will try to give a fair verdict in the face of conflicting testimony.



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE PROSECUTION - 1



**Suggestion:**

Use 3 x 5 inch note cards to organize your speaking and questioning.



**Opening**

- 1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
  - 2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
- (sentence fragments)

You are the team of attorneys trying to prosecute and convict Joan of Arc on two charges:

- committing treason by leading an armed rebellion against the government of Henry VI, king of France; and
- inciting French citizens to perform violent acts by falsely claiming to be divinely inspired.

Since Joan will be presumed guilty until proven innocent, the burden of proof rests with the defense. This situation will be to your advantage.

During the trial preparation period, you should meet with all of your own witnesses and discuss the questions you will ask them. You should also think about what you will ask the defense witnesses.

## General strategy

1. First have your own witnesses set the stage by establishing the following:
  - that Henry VI had a legal claim to the French throne; and
  - that Joan was leading armed troops against him as well as his ally, the duke of Burgundy.
2. When questioning Joan, *be intense*. Phrase short, snappy questions in an attempt to fluster her. Discredit the testimony of all witnesses who take the stand in Joan’s behalf.

## Opening statement

Cover the points made in the following outline. *Avoid reading it verbatim* so that you will sound dynamic and will not put persons to sleep.

1. The accused is charged on two counts: treason and inciting others to violence. The actions took place when Joan led armed men against Henry VI and the duke of Burgundy at various points throughout France during 1429-30.
2. Joan’s actions constituted a clear case of treason because Henry VI was the rightful king of France, having been bequeathed the throne by the late French king, Charles VI. Joan objected to Henry VI’s English roots, ignoring the fact that the English and French thrones had been intertwined since the time of William the Conqueror in 1066.
3. Joan did not simply act on her own in opposing the king. She duped well-meaning, God-fearing Frenchmen into battle by falsely telling them that her military commands were inspired by the voices of saints.



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE PROSECUTION - 2

4. We will place on the stand four witnesses who will clearly establish the guilt of Joan of Arc. Through the testimony of Jean de Luxembourg you will hear an eyewitness account of Joan's treason and her ability to mesmerize simple Frenchmen under her command. Through the testimony of Nicolas Loiseleur you will learn how Joan, despite her claims of piety, frequently violated the teachings of the church. Through the testimony of the duke of Bedford you will learn that the monarch Joan opposed is indeed the rightful king of France. Finally, through the testimony of Philip, the duke of Burgundy, you will learn that Joan rejected the leadership of all kings and, in fact, disobeyed Charles VII, the pretender to the French throne to whom she professed loyalty.
5. Gentlemen of the jury, Joan of Arc is a dangerous criminal who brings death and disorder to France. We ask that you find her guilty on both charges.

## Examination of the witnesses

Ask them the questions below plus any others that will help your case.

*Use 3 x 5 inch cards, one for each person you examine.*

<b>?s Jean de Lux.</b>
1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
(sentence fragments)

- **Jean de Luxembourg**
  1. Please tell the court about the events of May 23, 1430.
  2. Did you see Joan fighting the forces of Philip of Burgundy, an ally of Henry VI of France?
  3. How would you describe Joan's leadership of the soldiers under her command?
  4. How was Joan of Arc captured?
- **Nicolas Loiseleur**
  1. Father Loiseleur, what was your relationship with Joan of Arc during her captivity?
  2. Do you consider Joan of Arc to be a devout person? Why?
  3. In your view, did Joan of Arc recognize the dauphin because she was divinely inspired?
- **Duke of Bedford**
  1. Who is the rightful king of France? Why?
  2. Did Joan of Arc obey the rightful king of France? What did she do?
  3. As regent, it is your responsibility to govern France. Has Joan of Arc affected your ability to perform this task?



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE PROSECUTION - 3

- **Philip, duke of Burgundy**

1. Please describe your relationship with Joan of Arc.
2. Did Joan of Arc follow the commands of King Henry VI of France?
3. Did Joan of Arc always obey the leadership of Charles VII, the pretender to the French throne?
4. Did Joan of Arc follow the leadership of any French ruler?

## **Cross-examination of the defense witnesses**

Ask them the questions below, plus others that you feel are pertinent.

*Use 3 x 5 inch cards, one for each person you cross-examine.*

**?s Robert de Bau.**

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

- **Robert de Baudricourt**

1. Wouldn't you say that the dauphin was losing badly when you agreed to take Joan of Arc to Chinon?
2. Isn't it true that you owed your position to the dauphin and would have lost it if the Vosges had been conquered by Henry VI and his ally, the duke of Burgundy?
3. Wasn't your support of Joan really a last-ditch effort to keep your job?

- **The Archbishop of Reims**

1. You have described Joan of Arc as a simple maid that is pure of heart. Is that correct?
2. Does a simple maid wield a lance in battle? Does a person who is pure of heart incite people to kill others in battle?
3. Isn't it possible that, as a result of your own pureness of heart, you have misjudged Joan of Arc?

- **John, duke d'Alencon**

1. You are a cousin of the dauphin, is that not correct?
2. What was your reaction when your uncle, Charles VI, bequeathed the French throne to Henry VI rather than his own son?
3. As king of France, Charles VI had a right to determine who would succeed him, did he not?
4. Wouldn't you stand to gain increased power and influence if Charles VII were successful in gaining the French throne?
5. Isn't your support of Joan of Arc motivated by self-interest?



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE PROSECUTION - 4

- **Joan of Arc**

1. Did anyone else hear the voices of St. Catherine and St. Margaret?
2. Why do you suppose the saints chose to speak to you?
3. If you love your country, why did you take arms against Henry VI, the rightful king of France?
4. If you swore allegiance to the dauphin, why did you rally forces around you at Compiegne without his knowledge or consent?
5. Aren't you in fact promoting your own cause rather than that of any king?

## ■ Closing statement

*Use 3 x 5 inch cards for your closing statement.*

**Closing**

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

Cover the points made in the following outline. Try to avoid reading it verbatim. First thank the judge. Then speak directly to the jury.

1. You have a difficult job because you must take all the evidence and resolve the conflicts. Has the prosecution proven that Joan of Arc was a traitor to her country? I think we have.
2. Joan of Arc led armies against the rightful king of France. Claiming her allegiance to the dauphin, she ignored the fact that Charles VI had left little doubt as to who should occupy the French throne. And despite her claims of loyalty to the dauphin, testimony has shown that Joan ignored his wishes and acted on her own by leading attacks outside Compiegne.
3. Joan of Arc fooled God-fearing Frenchmen into thinking she obeyed the voices of saints. In reality, Joan's own piety was lacking. She violated the teachings of the church by trying to take her own life and by leading an attack on Paris on a feast day. Rather than following divine inspiration, Joan was really responding to her own ambition. Sadly, many French were injured or killed before this dangerous criminal was captured.
4. With the exception of the archbishop of Reims, a man whose own pure spirit prevented him from seeing the evil in Joan, all of the defense witnesses have something to gain if Joan of Arc is allowed to go free and lead armies on behalf of the dauphin. Their ambition is as great as hers.
5. Do not be fooled. Your duty is to affirm the real king of France and find Joan of Arc guilty.



# ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

## Cauchon, Le Maitre, Attorneys, and Witnesses

1. Prepare for your part by carefully reading your role sheet and legal plans in detail.
2. Study and follow the sequence of the trial as given in the COURT PROCEDURE handout.
3. After the trial, write a one-paragraph *or longer* essay describing your contribution to the trial. Cover questions such as the following:
  - What kind of a person was the character you were playing?
  - How much impact did your role-playing have on the trial?
  - What positive contributions did you make to the trial?
  - How might you have improved your performance?

## Jurors

1. Read carefully and follow the trial as it is presented in the COURT PROCEDURE handout.
2. Record your impressions in your REACTION JOURNAL. Immediately below are some specific suggestions you may wish to follow while keeping this journal during the trial.

*Suggested note-taking process for your REACTION JOURNALS*

Reactions/Character	Witnesses
<p>Place two kinds of information on this page:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Questions</b> you wish to ask the witness if you have time to do so ... If you do not, possibly you can bring up your concerns when the jury meets to deliberate.</li> <li>2. <b>Reactions</b> to the character of the witness ... The great Greek philosopher Aristotle said human beings persuade others by relying on three things: <i>logos</i> (the logic of their argument); <i>pathos</i> (the emotions they radiate); and <i>ethos</i> (the personal character they project to listeners). Ask yourself, "Does this speaker seem to have an honorable character?"</li> </ol>	<p>On this right hand side of your open notebook pages, write down the main points each witness presents.</p> <p>Try to be as accurate as you can while you write down what is said.</p> <p>During moments when you suddenly doubt or wonder about what the witness is saying, then write a question on the page at the left.</p>



# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Jean de Luxembourg - 1

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You are a vassal to Philip, duke of Burgundy. On May 23, 1430, you and some friends approached the town of Margny on horseback when you spotted approximately 500 Frenchmen who were attacking Burgundian soldiers. The French were led by Joan of Arc, a maid who was attired in men's clothing. The thing that struck you about Joan's leadership of the troops was the almost supernatural effect she had on the men she was leading. The soldiers seemed to believe themselves almost invincible because she urged them to go forward in the name of God.

Because Joan was an enemy of Burgundy, you felt it important to send a messenger to the town of Chairoix to enlist reinforcements. The messenger returned with a large force of Burgundians and Flemings (Flanders was a vassal state of Burgundy). They cut off Joan's forces as they attempted to return to their base of Compiègne. In the battle that followed, most of Joan's forces were able to retreat into the fortress of Compiègne; however, those inside the walls, fearing that the enemy would enter, raised the bridge and lowered the portcullis (iron grating). Joan was trapped and, although she fought heroically, she was finally pulled from her horse by an enemy bowman. She surrendered to an archer who was under your feudal overlordship. Joan became your prisoner.

Eight months passed while Joan waited for her trial. First she was held at Noyon, then the castle of Beaulieu, where she made an unsuccessful attempt to escape. From there she was transferred to your chateau of Beaurevoir. Despite the kind treatment she received from your wife and aunt, Jeanne de Bethune and Jeanne de Luxembourg, Joan nearly killed herself by jumping from her 70-foot tower.



After that, Joan was moved around constantly—to Arras, the castle of Drugy, and Le Crotoy, where she could look out at the English Channel. Throughout this time Joan was treated honorably as a prisoner of war and continued to claim that the voices of saints were speaking to her. Curiously, neither Charles VII nor any of Joan's fighting companions made any attempt to secure her release. More transfers followed: to Vinieu, Saint-Valery, Eu, Dieppe, and finally to Rouen. There Joan was put in chains in the tower.



# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Jean de Luxembourg - 2



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Joan of Arc is no longer your prisoner. At the request of the English, the duke of Burgundy turned Joan over to them for a sum of 10,000 gold pounds, plus an annuity for you. You are glad to be rid of her because you object to her on several counts:

1. You find her masculine dress offensive.
2. You feel she is guilty of homicidal acts.
3. You believe she is misleading the simple masses of French peasants by claiming to be sent by God and to know His will.
4. You are convinced she is committing treason by opposing Charles VII, the true king of France.

The purpose of your testimony will be to tell the jurors about her capture and imprisonment so that they will be persuaded to render a "guilty" verdict.



# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Nicolas Loiseleur - 1

A Roman Catholic priest, you were appointed Joan of Arc's confessor during her imprisonment. You are also paid by the English and have been telling Joan's captors all that she has confided during her captivity. Although you have treated Joan kindly, you are sincerely convinced that she is a heretic (a dissenter from established church teachings) and will testify to that fact when you take the witness stand.

Joan has confided many things when you have visited her, including the following:



*Joan of Arc, a painting of Jules Bastien-Lepage. Here the subject is in her family garden in Domremy. The painting is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

She was the child of a farmer, Jacques Darc, and his wife, Ysabeau. She had three brothers and two sisters. She believed herself to be about 19 years of age. When she was 13 she first heard a voice which she later knew was that of the Archangel Michel. Later St. Catherine and St. Margaret spoke to her. One of the saints told her that she must raise the English siege of Orleans. At that time English forces occupied the greater part of France north of the Loire River and taking Orleans would put them in a position to control all of France.

Urged on by the voices of saints, Joan traveled 400 miles and arrived at Chinon in southwest France where the dauphin was assembling an army in what appeared to be a futile gesture. Joan asked to see the dauphin, claiming that she was to raise the siege of Orleans and have him crowned the true king of France. Having convinced the dauphin of her sincerity, she donned white armor and led the French armies as, one after another, the English fortresses around Orleans fell. Finally, the besieged city was saved. More victories followed, and the French armies entered Reims, where the dauphin was crowned Charles VII of France.



# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Nicolas Loiseleur - 2



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Several things bother you about Joan.

- First, she refuses to act like a woman, claiming that the voices instructed her to cut her hair and wear male attire.
- Second, she sinned by trying to take her own life when she jumped from a tower in which she was imprisoned.
- Third, she claimed that voices enabled her to recognize the dauphin. In fact, most French people had heard what the dauphin looked like—a meek, homely man with a long nose, thick lips, watery eyes, no eyelashes, and skinny bowed legs. Joan needed no divine inspiration to identify the king's son.
- Fourth, Joan led an attack on Paris on a feast day, in clear violation of church teachings.
- And perhaps most important, she was encouraging people to shed blood by the order of God.

Stories were circulating about miracles that Joan had performed, including a story that she had resurrected a dead child at Lagny. It is your feeling that Joan is not only rejecting the teachings of the church; she may also be practicing witchcraft. It is common knowledge that not far from her house in Domremy there is an enormous beech tree that is reputed to be the home of fairies and other spirits. When she was growing up, Joan danced with the other girls and hung garlands on the tree. It is also claimed that a nearby spring has magic powers that can cure the sick.

All of the above is very unsettling to you. For these reasons you hope the jurors will see fit to find Joan of Arc “guilty.”



# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Duke of Bedford

Your purpose in testifying is to convince the jurors that Joan of Arc is guilty of treason because she has waged war against Henry VI, the rightful king of France. Furthermore, you believe that Joan is a sorceress who uses supernatural powers to inspire her French followers to perpetrate acts of violence.

You are the brother of Henry V of England who died at the age of 35. Before his death, Henry V was bequeathed the right to the French crown by Charles VI of France. Charles' death closely followed Henry's, and you found yourself the sole mourner at the grave of the mad French king. No French nobles attended the shabby interment; however, many people in Paris wept when they saw the coffin being carried through the streets.

Because your brother's son, Henry VI, was only a baby at the time of his death, you became the regent, which allowed you to act as the ruler until the king came of age. In that capacity you pledged to continue the work of Henry V and have attempted to be fair and just in your governance. Despite that fact, many French believe that, regardless of what political views they hold, the eldest and only male son of the anointed king of France is by divine right successor to the throne. This situation has not made your job easy.

Another problem has been your ally, Philip, duke of Burgundy. Although you are on the same side in this trial, you do not really trust him. You strongly suspect that he is self-serving and wants to make a separate peace with Charles VII for his own benefit. Your brother's dying command was to "conciliate Burgundy." You have attempted to bring about your brother's wish, even to the point of marrying Philip's youngest sister, Lady Anne. So your problems with Philip are not only political, but familial.

The most distasteful part of your job is having to deal with Joan of Arc. You think it is regrettable that you are having to combat a weak pretender to the French throne who has a sorceress to fight his battles for him. But Joan has a large following, and to kill her would not destroy the legend that has grown up around her. Rather than being tried at English hands, it is important that her claim to divine inspiration be completely discredited by her fellow French citizens. You hope that your testimony will convince the court to give a "guilty" verdict.



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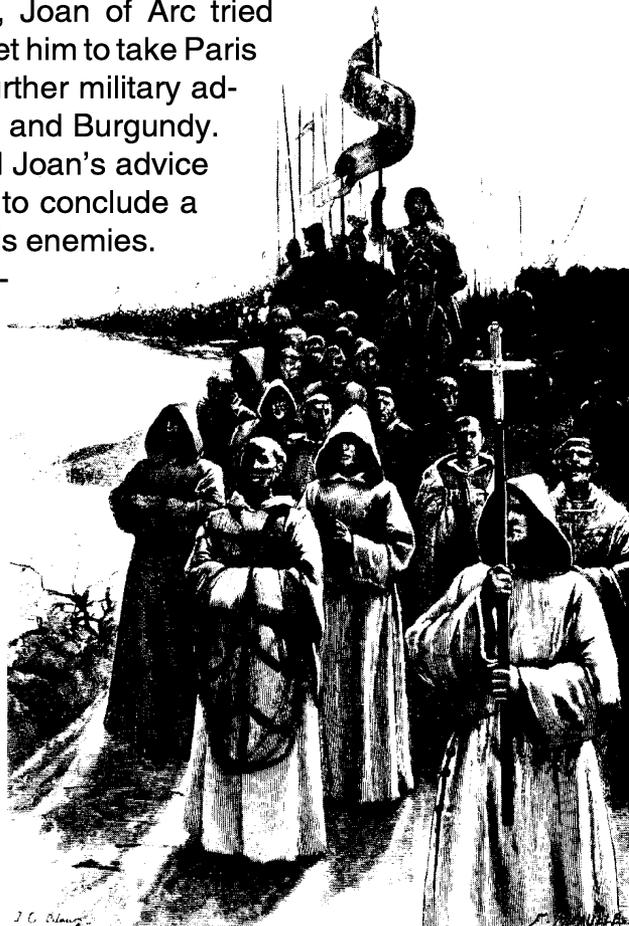
# PROSECUTION WITNESS: Philip, duke of Burgundy - 1

You made an alliance with the English to avenge the death of your father, John the Fearless. In 1419 your father, who was then duke of Burgundy, was having differences with the dauphin. Upon the dauphin's suggestion, the two met at Montereau, a little walled town where the Seine and Yonne rivers meet. Your father agreed to the fatal rendezvous because he felt one must risk something for the cause of peace. As he knelt before the dauphin, someone approached your father from behind and split his head open with an axe. Although the dauphin claimed his innocence, you and your followers called for English vengeance. Your father's killing caused many French people to remember that fifteen years earlier, Louis d'Orleans, your father's bitter rival and first cousin, was brutally slain as he walked alone one night. Although John the Fearless protested loudly against his cousin's killer, it was widely believed that he had instigated the murder.

Your role in testifying will be to show that Joan of Arc is a traitor who acts on her own, apart from the wishes of any king. Your reasons for believing this are as follows:

After your cousin Charles VII was crowned at Reims, Joan of Arc tried unsuccessfully to get him to take Paris and forestall any further military advances by England and Burgundy. Charles VII ignored Joan's advice and chose instead to conclude a peace treaty with his enemies.

A general truce followed, during which time you tried to persuade Charles VII to implement the agreement by turning the city of Compiègne over to you. But the people of the city heard about this plan and wrote Charles, saying that they were his loyal subjects and would serve only him.



*In the illustration at the right Joan of Arc leads a French army toward Orleans. She is attacking the British and Burgundian enemies of Charles VII.*



## PROSECUTION WITNESS: Philip, duke of Burgundy - 2



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Without the knowledge or consent of Charles VII, Joan of Arc went to Compiègne and rallied around her the irregular forces in the area which had been constantly harassing the English and Burgundians. Joan, using her mobile soldiers to provoke clashes throughout the countryside, thus prevented Burgundy and England from gaining a foothold from which they might launch a successful attack on Compiègne. In your estimation, this action was part of Joan's military strategy of holding Compiègne as a springboard from which an eventual attack on Paris could be launched. Eventually, Joan was captured while leading a force of 500 men on a surprise attack on the town of Margny. She became a prisoner of your vassal, Jean de Luxembourg. At the request of your English allies, you turned Joan of Arc over to them for the sum of 10,000 gold pounds, plus an annuity to Jean de Luxembourg.

You have no particular regrets about that decision because you think Joan of Arc must be stopped. She refuses to give homage to Henry VI, and she ignores the wishes of Charles VII while inciting other citizens to violence.

Without a doubt Joan of Arc is guilty of treason.



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE DEFENSE - 1

You are the team of attorneys trying to get charges dismissed against Joan of Arc. Since Joan is presumed guilty until proven innocent, the burden of proof is on you.

During the trial preparation period, you should meet with all of your own witnesses and discuss the questions you will ask them. You should also think about what you will ask the prosecution witnesses.



### Suggestion:

Use 3 x 5 inch note cards to organize your speaking and questioning.



### Opening

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

## General strategy

1. First have your own witnesses set the stage by establishing that Charles VII, as the son of the deceased king, was the rightful heir to the French throne. Henry VI of England took advantage of the misbehavior of a mad king and tried to conquer foreign territory, much to the dismay of French patriots.
2. Joan of Arc was one of those patriots. Her leadership was more formidable because she acted out of religious conviction. That is why so many French followed her.
3. When questioning the prosecution witnesses, *be intense*. Try to phrase short, snappy questions in an attempt to fluster them. Try to discredit them in the eyes of the jury.

## Opening statement

Cover the points made in the following outline. Try to avoid reading it verbatim.

1. It is now time to hear the case for Joan of Arc, a simple peasant maid whose only crimes were loving God and loving her country—so much that she fought foreign invaders who tried to make her France a province of England.
2. The prosecution will try to convince you that England and France are one and the same. *You know that is not true!* They are two distinct nations, each with its own language, customs, and history. The French people knew better, too. That is why they fought so valiantly under Joan of Arc's leadership. That is why the English regard Joan of Arc as a threat.
3. Through the testimony of Robert de Baudricourt, we will show Joan's desire to save France by meeting the dauphin, and ultimately arranging for his coronation. Through the testimony of the Archbishop of Reims we will show that Joan was no sorceress or heretic, but a blameless soul. Through the testi-



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE DEFENSE - 2

mony of the duke d'Alencon we will show that Joan was an inspiring leader. Finally, through the testimony of Joan herself we will show that her only motivation was to serve God and save France from those who would destroy her.

## Cross-examination of government witnesses

Ask them the questions below and other questions you feel are pertinent.

Use 3 x 5 inch cards, one for each person you cross-examine.

**?s Jean de Lux.**

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

### • Jean de Luxembourg

1. Why did you accept an annuity from the English for the sale of your prisoner, Joan of Arc, when international law specifically prohibits prisoners of war from being treated in this manner?
2. Did Joan of Arc attempt to escape by jumping from a tower because you were mistreating her during her confinement?
3. Isn't it possible that large numbers of Frenchmen are following Joan of Arc because they don't like Henry VI or your lord, Philip of Burgundy?
4. Don't you want Joan of Arc stopped because you will lose power if Philip of Burgundy is defeated?

### • Nicolas Loiseleur

1. Isn't it true that you are in the pay of the English?
2. Isn't it rather dishonest and heretical to pose as someone's father confessor and tell everything they say to their enemy?
3. If you are a member of the clergy, how can you doubt the possibility that someone might be divinely inspired?

### • Duke of Bedford

1. Isn't it a long-established custom that the eldest son of a king becomes the next monarch?
2. Isn't it true that Charles VI was mad when he bequeathed the French throne to your brother? How can you take the actions of a madman seriously?
3. Since your brother's son was not an adult, you governed in his place, did you not?
4. Don't you really want Joan of Arc silenced because she is able to rally French citizens who oppose your bold seizure of power?



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE DEFENSE - 3

- **Philip, duke of Burgundy**

1. Isn't it true that you are supporting Henry VI because you believe that the dauphin was responsible for your father's death?
2. Don't you believe that the welfare of France is more important than your personal grudge?
3. Why did you sell Joan of Arc to the English for 10,000 pounds in gold when international law prohibits prisoners of war from being treated in such a manner?



## Examination of your witnesses

Use 3 x 5 inch cards, one for each person you examine.

Ask them the questions below, plus any other questions that will help your case.

**?s Robert de Bau.**

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

- **Robert de Baudricourt**

1. Are you acquainted with the defendant, Joan of Arc?
2. Please describe the circumstances of your meeting.
3. What did Joan want you to do? What was your reaction?
4. Why were you persuaded to take Joan to Chinon?

- **Archbishop of Reims**

1. How did you become acquainted with the defendant, Joan of Arc?
2. Did you conduct a theological examination of the defendant?
3. What did you find?
4. Have other clergy voiced their opinions about Joan of Arc? What was the result?

- **Duke d'Alencon**

1. How did you become acquainted with Joan of Arc?
2. Have you observed her conduct with soldiers?
3. As a relative of both Henry VI and Charles VII, who do you believe to be the rightful king of France? Why?
4. Have you ever observed Joan of Arc committing treason against France?



# LEGAL PLAN FOR THE DEFENSE - 4

- **Joan of Arc**

1. How old are you?
2. Please describe your background.
3. How did a peasant maid become involved in a war between France and England?
4. Why do you oppose the English and support Charles VII?
5. Have you ever committed treason against France?
6. Have you ever encouraged others to commit treason against France?
7. Why do you persist in rallying your fellow French citizens to the cause of Charles VII?

## Closing statement

Cover the points made in the following outline. Try to avoid reading it verbatim. First thank the judge. Then direct your remarks to the jury.

*Use 3 x 5 inch cards for your closing statement.*

**Closing**

1. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx
2. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
(sentence fragments)

1. It is time to decide the fate of Joan of Arc, a teenage girl from Domremy. The prosecution would lead you to believe that she is a sorceress, a person of blind ambition, a traitor to France. The prosecution would lead you to believe that she is able to fool thousands of Frenchmen who otherwise would welcome a conquering English monarch with open arms. But let's examine the evidence.
2. Henry VI has no claims to the throne of France beyond the misguided actions of a madman. The English know that, the French know that, and you know that.
3. The prosecution would lead you to believe that it is treason to suppose that the oldest son of a monarch should be the next king. Yet Henry VI himself became king precisely because he was his father's oldest son.
4. The prosecution would lead you to believe that Joan is in violation of the laws of the country and of the church. They have failed to prove that; yet their witnesses have admitted under oath that they violated international law by selling Joan to the English for 10,000 pounds in gold.
5. The traitor in our midst is not the simple peasant maid from Domremy. The traitor is Philip of Burgundy, who would sell out his kinsmen to nurse a personal grudge.
6. In the name of justice, find this patriotic Frenchwoman who did not forsake her country innocent of all charges.



# DEFENSE WITNESS: Robert de Baudricourt

As the dauphin's representative in the Vosges and the governor of Vaucouleurs, your position has not been an easy one. Vaucouleurs is a frontier town in the shadow of Burgundy, and the war has brought a great deal of damage and upheaval. All day long you sit in a great hall behind a table, hearing farmers' grievances, peasants' requests for compensation for war damage, and endless complaints about the taxes you must collect in the king's name.

It was therefore surprising when a peasant girl from Domremy approached you and announced that she was sent by the King of Heaven to raise the siege of Orleans. You laughed loudly and suggested that the maid should be taken back to her father for a good spanking.

The girl went home and returned a few months later when the English had attacked the valley and pillaged Domremy. She almost ordered you to quickly take her to see the dauphin. She claimed to have heard voices that instructed her to have him crowned king of France. Strangely, you provided her with a horse and six men to accompany her to Chinon where the dauphin was staying. Her name was Joan of Arc.



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What you found most noteworthy about Joan was her serenity and confidence. Despite your rudeness and skepticism, she did not waver in her resolve. With England controlling a large portion of France, it looked as though Charles VII could be saved only by a miracle.

You decided to let Joan go to Chinon and work the miracle if she could. You wrote a letter to the dauphin at Chinon explaining that this peasant maid had been so persistent that you decided not to resist. You worded your letter carefully so that if Joan turned out to be a witch, you would not be held responsible.



# DEFENSE WITNESS: The archbishop of Reims

You first became acquainted with Joan of Arc when King Charles VII, who was then the dauphin, asked for your ecclesiastical opinion about her. Joan had traveled to Chinon to persuade the dauphin that she should lead the French armies against the English at Orleans. Furthermore, Joan was predicting that the dauphin would be crowned king of France. Although the dauphin was impressed by Joan's sincerity, he had some doubt that a 17-year-old girl could accomplish such miracles. The English and their allies, the Burgundians, occupied a large section of France. The dauphin, a weakling who was unskilled in war, was pawning his jewels to pay his soldiers as he sought to gain the throne that his father had held. Furthermore, his generals and ministers lacked unity and quarreled among themselves. The dauphin sent Joan to you at Poitiers. After a lengthy examination, you found nothing wrong with the girl. You gave her your blessing and told her to do as she must.



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You feel the charges against Joan are purely political. The English do not want the French united in a nationalistic cause, because it would then be difficult for England to control France. Joan of Arc provides the basis for that unity. You are troubled that some clergy are being manipulated by the English in persecuting a maid that is simple and pure of heart. You are not the only church authority who disapproves of the court proceedings. In fact, Pierre Cauchon had a priest named Nicolas de Houpeville thrown into prison for pointing out that you, who outrank Cauchon, had vouched for Joan's saintliness. A Norman priest named Jean Lohier, who was an authority on church law, claimed that there was insufficient evidence for bringing Joan to trial.

You wish that Joan's case could be heard outside of war-torn France, but that does not seem to be possible. You intend to testify on behalf of the maid.



# DEFENSE WITNESS: John, the duke d'Alencon

You are a cousin of Charles VII, a soldier, sportsman, and friend of Joan of Arc, whose quality you recognized as soon as you met her. Impressed by Joan's easy mastery of the lance, you presented her with the gift of a fine horse. Soon you learned that she had other talents as well. In fact, you pronounced her an expert in all aspects of warfare.

As your friendship with Joan developed, you discovered that she had a definite idea of what she wanted to accomplish. "I will last a year," she once told you, "but not much more." She added, "and I must work well during that year. I have four things to do:

- to raise the siege of Orleans;
- to put the English to flight;
- to have the king crowned at Reims; and
- to deliver the duke of Orleans from the hands of the English."

As you accompanied Joan into battle, you were struck by the force of her personality. The French armies had not seen such an inspiring leader for many years. Joan gave the soldiers unity of purpose. Her confidence that the voices she heard would not betray her made her fearless in the field, and men who followed her believed they would achieve victory.

You come from a long line of military heroes. You were once taken prisoner at the Battle of Verneuil and spent five years in the fortress of Le Crotoy because you would not desert the cause of France. That cause, in your estimation, is embodied by Joan of Arc. *She is not a traitor. She is a true patriot!*



## ***Want to do a good job?***

*Study this handout carefully enough so that you do not have to carry notes with you while you are questioned. (Get a friend or family member to help you practice answering questions while you are preparing yourself.)*

*The result? You will sound much more convincing because you will not have to read answers off a sheet of paper.*



# DEFENSE WITNESS: Joan of Arc - 1

As the defendant in this trial, you will be testifying about the circumstances that compelled you to lead the French armies against the English and the Burgundians in support of Charles VII. Since he is the true king of France, your action was not one of treason. In fact, it was divinely inspired.

The daughter of Jacques Darc, a farmer, and his wife, Ysabeau, you had three brothers and two sisters. A devout Catholic all of your life, you first began hearing voices when you were thirteen years old. It was at noon on a summer's day when you were in your parents' garden. A voice appeared to be coming from the right, in the direction of the church, and it was accompanied by a light. After hearing the voice three times you knew it was that of the Archangel Michel.



*Joan claimed that St. Michel, St. Catherine, and St. Margaret all first spoke to her when she was 13 years old.*

Later St. Catherine and St. Margaret spoke to you and continued to do so about two or three times a week. This occurred in the garden, Vosges Forest, and usually after church bells sounded. St. Catherine and St. Margaret, who had crowns on their heads and wore beautiful garments, at first told you to take care of yourself and attend church often. In time you took an oath of chastity to be like them. After this the saints told you that you must leave and raise the siege of Orleans. They gave you specific instructions about how this was to be accomplished. You were to go to Captain Robert de Baudricourt in the town of Vaucouleurs. He would provide you with soldiers who would take you to the dauphin. At first the captain brushed you aside. Later he agreed to take you to the dauphin, as the saints commanded. When you completed the 400 mile journey and arrived at the dauphin's court, the voices helped you to recognize him, even though he had placed a knight on the throne in his royal robes and stood among his courtiers in ordinary garb.

The dauphin provided you with a black horse and a suit of white armor and made you head of the French armies. Under your leadership, English fortresses around Orleans fell until the besieged city was finally saved on May 8, 1429. More battles were won in the following weeks, but you took no credit for victory. You were simply God's instrument. Finally, on July 15, French armies entered Reims and in a beautiful ceremony the dauphin was crowned Charles VII of France.



# DEFENSE WITNESS: Joan of Arc - 2



## ***Want to do a good job?***

*Study this handout carefully enough so that you do not have to carry notes with you while you are questioned. (Get a friend or family member to help you practice answering questions while you are preparing yourself.)*

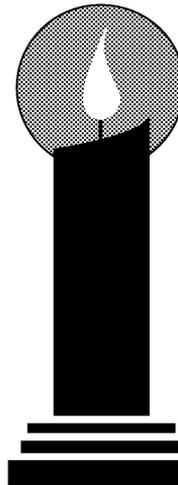
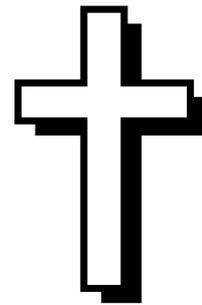
*The result? You will sound much more convincing because you will not have to read answers off a sheet of paper.*

The king ignored your pleas that he march on Paris and take the city from the English and Burgundians. When the city of Compiègne staunchly resisted the enemy, you joined the residents and rallied soldiers in the area. Finally, you were captured at Compiègne on May 23, 1430.

Since your capture you have continued to hear voices. The prosecution will probably ask you about them. You should insist that what you do is divinely inspired and that you are a good Christian. Finally, even though he has done nothing to aid you since your capture, you should continue to profess loyalty to Charles VII.



*Joan is in chains as she stops to pray on her way to her first appearance in court.*



*Throughout the trial never forget how your faith in God burns like a candle in the center of your soul. Try to radiate this faith at all moments as you play your role.*



# JURORS

As members of the jury, you are priests, doctors, and theologians who will hear the charges against Joan of Arc. You must keep an open mind at all times and listen carefully. Wait until all testimony has been given before you decide on her guilt or innocence.

Performing your duties requires constant concentration. Keep a REACTION JOURNAL throughout the trial in which you record important facts as well as your thoughts on what is going on in the courtroom. After the trial you will be asked individually why you voted as you did. A model for how you might like to keep your REACTION JOURNAL is found at the bottom of this page.

Try not to discuss the case with anyone except fellow jurors. At the conclusion of the trial, you will be asked to mark *guilty* or *innocent* on a slip of paper and present it to the jury foreman. It takes a two-thirds vote to acquit Joan. As in the actual trial, Joan of Arc should be presumed guilty until proven innocent. When the jury has reached a decision, the foreman will deliver the verdict after the judge instructs Joan to stand.

## Suggested note-taking process for your REACTION JOURNALS

Reactions/Character	Witnesses
<p>Place two kinds of information on this page:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Questions</b> you wish to ask the witness if you have time to do so ... If you do not, possibly you can bring up your concerns when the jury meets to deliberate.</li><li>2. <b>Reactions</b> to the character of the witness ... The great Greek philosopher Aristotle said human beings persuade others by relying on three things: <i>logos</i> (the logic of their argument); <i>pathos</i> (the emotions they radiate); and <i>ethos</i> (the personal character they project to listeners). Ask yourself, "Does this speaker seem to have an honorable character?"</li></ol>	<p>On this right hand side of your open notebook pages, write down the main points each witness presents.</p> <p>Try to be as accurate as you can while you write down what is said.</p> <p>During moments when you suddenly doubt or wonder about what the witness is saying, then write a question on the page at the left.</p>



# COURT PROCEDURE - 1

**Directions:** Action begins when both the judge and jury enter from outside the classroom. Pierre Cauchon, presiding judge, waits until all persons are settled. The trial then begins.



**Cauchon:**

*In the midst of the excitement and the passion, be sure you keep order.*

1. **Le Maitre:** All rise, the honorable Pierre Cauchon presiding.
2. **Cauchon:** Monsieur Le Maitre, please read the charges. The defendant will stand while the charges are read.
3. **Le Maitre:** Joan of Arc is hereby charged with treason for having born arms against the king of France and for leading others in treasonous acts. She is also charged for falsely claiming that the source of such activity was divine inspiration.
4. **Cauchon:** Joan of Arc, how do you plead to these charges?
5. **Joan:** Not guilty.
6. **Cauchon:** The defendant may be seated. Will the prosecution please begin its case.
7. **Prosecuting attorney:** *(Opening statement is delivered to the jury. This is followed by the opening statement of the defense.)*
8. **Cauchon:** Will the prosecution please call its first witness.
9. **Le Maitre:** The court calls Jean de Luxembourg to the stand. *(The witness is sworn in by Le Maitre.)* State you name.
10. **Luxembourg:** Jean de Luxembourg.

*(At this point the prosecuting and defense attorneys question Luxembourg in accordance with the LEGAL PLANS. The same procedure is followed for the other prosecution witnesses: the duke of Bedford, the duke of Burgundy, and Nicolas Loiseleur. When Loiseleur has been cross-examined, the prosecution will rest its case.)*

11. **Cauchon:** The defense may begin its case. Please call your first witness to the stand.
12. **Le Maitre:** The defense calls Robert de Baudricourt to the stand. (The defense and prosecuting attorneys will now question the defense witnesses, attempting to elicit information provided in their LEGAL PLANS. After the archbishop of Reims, the duke d'Alencon, and Joan of Arc have testified, the defense attorneys will rest their case.)
13. **Cauchon:** Now that the testimony has been given, I will ask the prosecution to sum up its arguments.
14. **Prosecuting attorney:** (Closing arguments are given to the jury.)
15. **Cauchon:** Will the defense please sum up its arguments with a closing statement.



## COURT PROCEDURE - 2

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**Caution:**

*In the midst of the excitement and the passion, be sure you keep order.*

16. *(Closing arguments are given to the jury.)*
17. **Caution:** *(To the jury)* Joan of Arc has been charged on two counts: engaging in treasonous acts against the king of France and falsely claiming divine inspiration as she persuaded others to follow her. Remember that under our legal system, a defendant is presumed guilty until proven innocent. To acquit Joan of Arc, two-thirds of the jurors must find she is not guilty.
18. *(Time is taken for the jury to reach a verdict.)*
19. **Caution:** Has the jury reached a verdict?
20. **Jury spokesperson:** *(Rise from your seat and do not speak until the classroom is completely silent.)* We have, your Honor. The jury finds Joan of Arc \_\_\_\_\_ of both charges.
21. **Caution:** Joan of Arc, please stand. *(If she is found guilty:)* It is my duty to inform you that you are sentenced to death for crimes against France. *(If she is found innocent:)* It is my duty to inform you that you are freed of all charges against you.
22. **Caution:** The court is adjourned.



## EPILOGUE

On May 31, 1431, Joan of Arc was executed. Dressed in women's clothing, she was put in a prison cart and transported to the Rouen marketplace. According to legend, Father Loiseleur ran up to the cart, weeping and begging Joan's forgiveness. After hearing a formal sentence from the bishop of Beauvais which cast her out of the church and condemned her to death, Joan of Arc was taken to a stake and burned before a large crowd of spectators. Holding a crucifix, Joan's final word was reportedly, "Jesus!"



Joan's death demoralized the English soldiers, many of whom believed they had burned a saint and would be punished for it. Fighting continued for more than 20 years, with constant losses for the English. As early as 1435 they lost an ally in Philip of Burgundy, who reached an accord with Charles VII. Eventually, the English gave up their conquests in France. The Hundred Years' War officially ended in 1453 when Charles VII took Bordeaux. Joan of Arc was credited with laying the foundations for a united France.

Following Joan's death, questions emerged about the validity of her trial. In 1449 Charles VII declared that Joan had been unjustly put to death and ordered an investigation into the proceedings. In 1455 a "Rehabilitation Trial" was held at Notre Dame in Paris. All evidence was reexamined, as were key people who were still living, among them Ysambard de la Pierre, Manchon, and Jean Beaupere. Pierre Cauchon, the bishop of Beauvais, had died 13 years earlier. After seven months of deliberation,

Joan of Arc was pronounced innocent of witchcraft and heresy. In 1920 she was canonized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

*Florian's engraving after  
J. E. Lenepveu's mural*

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