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USA Girl Scouts Overseas
Paris, France

Fontainebleau Chateau & Gardens

Email parispatches@usagso.org for order information.

Fontainebleau is a commune located approximately 35 miles from the center of Paris. It is renowned for the large and scenic forest of Fontainebleau, as well as for the historic Château de Fontainebleau, which once belonged to the kings of France. Visit Fontainebleau chateau and its gardens and then answer the questionnaire. If you are unable to visit Fontainebleau in person, you may research the chateau and gardens on the internet to complete the patch requirements in the internet research section of the questionnaire.

Minimum time to complete the patch if visiting Paris in person: approximately 1-2 days
Minimum time to complete the patch if doing Internet research: approximately ½ day

The answer key is at the end of this document.

Acknowledgement:

The USA Girl Scouts Overseas Paris Patch on the Château and Gardens of Fontainebleau formed part of a "Take Action" project carried out by senior Troop 41 during the year 2015-2016.

We hope you enjoy visiting the Château of Fontainebleau as much as we enjoyed researching and designing the questionnaire for the patch requirements.

GS Troop 41, Fontainebleau
October, 2016

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR VISITORS TO THE CHATEAU AND GARDENS

The Château: (answer 10 questions)

1. *Galerie des Fastes:* How many paintings do you see?

2. *Galerie des Assiettes:* How many plates are there and what are they made of?

3. *Galerie des Fresques:* Find the painting with the dogs and name five.

4. *Vestibule de la Chapelle:* Whom was it built under?

5. *Galerie de Francois 1er:* What are the sculptures? What does the letter F stand for? What is Francois 1er's symbol (animal)? What was this gallery used for? Which famous paintings by Leonardo da Vinci were once exhibited here?

6. *Salle de Bal:* What kind of music was played here and where did the musicians stand?

7. *Chapelle Saint-Saturin:* What is the colour of this Chapelle and what is its unusual feature? What was the function of the Chapelle under Napoleon I?

8. *Salon Louis XIII:* What important event happened here?

9. *Salon Francois 1er:* What was this room used for and what sculptures are standing over the fireplace?

10. *Galerie de Diane:* What are the measurements of this room and what story does the decoration tell?

11. *Chambre de l'Imperatrice:* Who stayed here? Why do you think the beds were this small?

12. *Salle du Trone:* What insect features in this room, whose sign was it? What are the main colours in this room?

13. In which room did Napoleon sign the Act of Abdication and when?

14. *Antichambre de l'Empereur:* Name three unusual uses for the clock.

15. *Chapelle de la Trinité:* Where did the king and queen sit and which two main events happened here?

For more optional visits, you could have a look at the theatre, the Chinese museum and even the Turkish boudoir.

Additional Resources

Virtual Visit on Google Art Project:
https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/chateau-de-fontainebleau

Audio guides available at reception:
Audio guide of the grand apartments 1h 30 mins @ 3 Euros
Audio for young visitors (7-12 years) 45 mins @ 3 Euros

Puzzle Books in French free on request at the reception:
- Chasse au chateau (8 years and above)
- Les Dames de Fontainebleau (10 years and above)
- Les jardins du chateau (10 years and above)

Free Audio / Video:
whc.unesco.org/en/list/160/video
https://www.fontainebleau-tourisme.com/en/discover/chateau-de-fontainebleau/ (in mp3 format, can be downloaded on app store or google play)

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USA Girl Scouts Overseas
Paris, France

<u>The park and gardens: (answer 8 questions)</u>

1. Name the three principal gardens found in the Château grounds.

2. Write or draw the main differences between the French and English gardens.

3. What do the four identical statues at the canal source (near the balcony) represent?

4. Look at the triangular bushes. What style of gardens are these usually found in?

5. Go to the Garden of Diane and find the fountain and statue of Diane. Who is Diane and what does she represent? What animals are depicted in the sculptures around the fountain?

6. What animals can be found in the pond next to the Cour de la Fontaine?

7. Who built the pavilion in the middle of the pond?

8. Who asked for the original neglected gardens to be restyled into English gardens?

9. Name three species of trees found in the English gardens?

10. What animal is depicted on the Porte Dorée?

11. How many steps are there in the Escalier du fer à cheval?

12. What famous French game can be found in the Château (in the Cour des Adieux)?

<u>Relaxation (do one of the following):</u>

- Have a picnic by the canal in the gardens
- Take a ride on the horse cart (if available)
- Take a boat out on the carp pond (if available)
- Enjoy an organic ice sorbet at the Ferme de la Métairie in the Cour de la Fontaine (seasonal)
- Feed the fish in the carp pond
- Find the children's playground in the grounds alongside the canal and check it out

<u>Reflexion (do one of the following):</u>

- Write two paragraphs about what you have learned about the Château and its gardens.
- Create a collage of all the things that you have collected during your trip.
- Make a short slideshow / video / photomontage, including pictures of troop members, of the sites which you have visited in Fontainebleau.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESEARCHING THE CHATEAU AND GARDENS ON INTERNET

All questions are obligatory, write a paragraph on each.

For information about the Château, you can visit these different websites:
http://www.musee-Château-fontainebleau.fr/
http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/160/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palace_of_Fontainebleau

1. FONTAINEBLEAU:
There are several theories about how Fontainebleau got its name. Research and write up about one of the theories.

2. THE CHATEAU:
a) Find out what the different parts of the Château are, whom they were constructed by and when?
b) Which members of royalty / Emperors of France have lived in the Château?
c) Research and write about FRANCOIS 1 and HENRI II in Fontainebleau, including how they influenced the Château (what they added: art? other buildings? rooms? or changed: architectural changes?).
d) INTERIORS: Read up about three different rooms in the Château and write a short paragraph on each.

3. THE GARDENS:
a) Name the three principal gardens to be found in the grounds of the Château.
b) When do each of the gardens date from?
c) What is an English garden? How is it different to the French gardens?
d) Who is Diana on Diana's fountain and what does she represent?
e) What is the function of the building on the island in the middle of the carp pond?

4. NAPOLEON BONAPARTE and the Château of Fontainebleau:
Research Napoleon I in Fontainebleau. Include what he and his entourage used the Château for, his reign, his hat and his abdication. (optional: what aspects did he change?).

Additional Resources

Virtual Visit on Google Art Project:
https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/chateau-de-fontainebleau

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USA Girl Scouts Overseas
Paris, France

ANSWER KEY FOR VISITORS TO THE CHATEAU AND GARDENS

The Château: (answer 10 questions)

1. *Galerie des Fastes:* How many paintings do you see?
Normally 16, may vary during special exhibitions or loans.

2. *Galerie des Assiettes:* How many plates are there and what are they made of?
128 made of Sèvres porcelain and fitted into the woodwork.

3. *Galerie des Fresques:* Find the painting with the dogs and name five.
Gris, Tirli, Piraneo el blanco, Cadet, Peramete, Floreta, Piramillo...

4. *Vestibule de la Chapelle:* Whom was it built under?
Built under Louis XIII.

5. *Galerie de Francois 1er:* What are the sculptures? What does the letter F stand for? What is Francois 1er's symbol (animal)? What was this gallery used for? Which famous paintings by Leonardo da Vinci were once exhibited here?
The sculptures are angels. The letter F stands for François Ier, whose symbol is a salamander. This gallery was used to link the royal apartments to the Trinity Chapel. It is thought that François Ier displayed Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa, St. John the Baptist* and possibly also *The Virgin of the Rocks* in this gallery, having acquired them from one of da Vinci's heirs, following his death in Amboise in 1519.

6. *Salle de Bal:* What kind of music was played here and where did the musicians stand?
The music was ballroom/dancing music. The musicians stood on a secret balcony above the door.

7. *Chapelle Saint-Saturin:* What is the colour of this Chapelle and what is its unusual feature? What was the function of the Chapelle under Napoleon I?
The Chapelle is bluish-green and is unusual because it is a double chapel with two superimposed storeys. In1807 Napoleon I decided to locate the Château library in the Chapelle, where it remained until 1851.

8. *Salon Louis XIII:* What important event happened here?
Louis XIII was born here.

9. *Salon Francois 1er:* What was this room used for and what sculptures are standing over the fireplace?
This used to be the Queen's chamber under François Ier, as well as the dining room under Louis XVI and Napoleon, and the sculptures represent sphynxes.

10. *Galerie de Diane:* What are the measurements of this room and what story does the decoration tell?
80m long and 7m wide: The decoration tells the story of the goddess Diana.

11. *Chambre de l'Imperatrice:* Who stayed here? Why do you think the beds were this small?
All the queens of France did, except Marie-Antoinette as she was beheaded before she could. The beds were tiny as people tended to be smaller in those days.

12. *Salle du Trone:* What insect features in this room, whose sign was it? What are the main colours in this room?
The bee features in this room; Napoleon's symbol. The main colours are gold, blue and red.

13. In which room did Napoleon sign the Act of Abdication and when?
Napoleon's abdication was formalised by the Treaty of Fontainebleau on 11 April, 1814, signed in the Salon Particulier de l'Empereur, also called the Salon de l'Abdication of 1814.

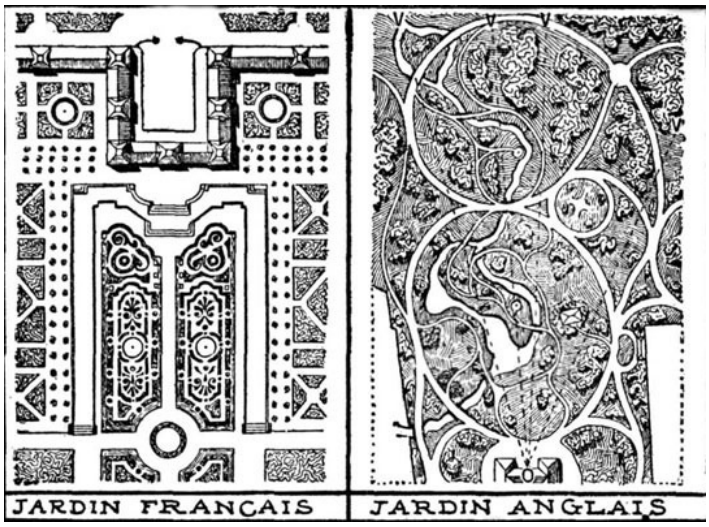
14. *Antichambre de l'Empereur:* Name three unusual uses for the clock.
There are 10 dials. They show the time in hours, minutes and seconds, the day of the week, the symbol of the day, the date of the month, the month and number of days in each month, **the phase of the moon, equinoxes and solstices, leap years, zodiac signs**, a 24 hour dial.

15. *Chapelle de la Trinité:* Where did the king and queen sit and which two main events happened here?
The king and queen sat on the first floor, while the courtiers remained on the ground floor and the musicians, singers and princesses were on the balcony. The two main events that took place in this chapel were Louis XV's wedding (September 1725) and the baptism of Napoleon III (5th November 1810).

<u>The park and gardens: (answer 8 questions)</u>

1. Name the three principal gardens found in the Château grounds.
The three gardens are: the Garden of Diane, the English gardens and the French gardens.

2. Write or draw the main differences between the French and English gardens.
French gardens follow strict geometrical lines, arranged so that everything is symmetrical. The English gardens, unlike the French, have an overgrown look as they aim to look more natural as though they are in the wild.



3. What do the four identical statues at the canal source (near the balcony) represent?
They are sphinxes.

4. Look at the triangular bushes. What style of gardens are these usually found in?
Usually in French-style gardens.

5. Go to the Garden of Diane and find the fountain and statue of Diane. Who is Diane and what does she represent? What animals are depicted in the sculpures around the fountain?
Diane is the goddess of hunting and wild animals. She represents fertility. The animals around the fountain are dogs and deer.

6. What animals can be found in the pond next to the Cour de la Fontaine?
They are carps.

7. Who built the pavilion in the middle of the pond?
The French classical architect Louis Le Vau (1612-1670) built it in 1662. Other works of his include the redesign of the chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte, the Palais de Versailles and the Palais du Louvre.

8. Who asked for the original neglected gardens to be restyled into English gardens?
The Emperor Napoleon did. Even though he wasn't particularly keen on English-style gardens, they were very fashionable at the time.

9. Name three species of trees found in the English gardens?
There are cypresses, sequoias, sycamores, tulip trees, lime/linden trees, maples, cedars, ginko biloba, etc…

10. What animal is depicted on the Porte Dorée?
The salamander of François Ier is depicted on the Porte Dorée.

11. How many steps are there in the Escalier du fer à cheval?
There are 46 steps on either side of the staircase.

12. What famous French game can be found in the Château (in the Cour des Adieux)?
It is called jeu de paume in French and real tennis in English.

ANSWER KEY FOR RESEARCHING THE CHATEAU AND GARDENS ON THE INTERNET

1. FONTAINEBLEAU:

There are several theories about how Fontainebleau got its name. Research and write up about one of the theories.
There are several possible answers:

The first theory has it that the king of France, Louis VII, took the field of a man named Mr. Bleau. In the field there was a source of water. This was simply a source belonging to Mr. Bleau, hence the name Fontainebleau.

However, the suffix "bleau" could also mean several other things: a shortening of "fontaine belle eaux", a source on the site, or the name of the forest guide or the dog who discovered the source.

2. THE CHATEAU:

a) Find out what the different parts of the Château are, whom they were constructed by and when?
Medieval Palace 12th Century
Renaissance Château of François Ier 1528-1547
Château of Henry II and Catherine dei Medici 1547-1570
Château of Henry IV 1570-1610
The Château during the Revolution and the First Empire (Napoleon I)
The Restoration and the reign of Louis-Philippe 1815-1848
The Château during the Second Empire
The Château from the Third Republic to Present Day

b) Which members of royalty / Emperors of France have lived in the Château?
The following members of royalty have lived in the Château: Philippe IV (le Bel); Charles IV le Bel; Charles VII; François I; Henry II and Catherine dei Medici; Henry IV; Louis XIII; Louis XIV; Louis XV; Louis XVI; Louis-Philippe. Napoleon I, Emperor of France, also made the Château his residence.

c) Research and write about FRANCOIS 1 and HENRI II in Fontainebleau, including how they influenced the Château (what they added: art? other buildings? rooms? or changed: architectural changes?).
François 1er is the king who changed the Château the most. He transformed it from Medieval Style to Renaissance Style. To do this, he commissioned the architect Gilles le Breton. The king also enlarged the Château, adding buildings on squares of newly purchased land. To mark these modifications, he added an "F" on most of the chimneys.

Henry II decided to expand the Château as well after François 1er. He and his wife extended the east wing of the lower court, and decorated it with the first famous horseshoe-shaped staircase. They also added buildings like the "Pavillon des Poeles". The king also ordered the decoration of a new ballroom. After his death, his wife Catherine dei Medici continued decorating and renovating the Château of Fontainebleau.

d) INTERIORS: Read up about three different rooms in the Château and write a short paragraph on each.
Your answer will depend on the rooms you have chosen; it can look something like this:

The "Galerie François 1er" was designed to join the King's bedroom to the "tribune de la Chappelle des moines trinitaires". It's first function was private: only the King, Francois I had access to it; he even kept the key on a string around his neck! In the XVIth century, the king's bedroom was moved, and so the "Galerie" became public.

3. THE GARDENS:

a) Name the three principal gardens to be found in the grounds of the Château.
Garden of Diane, English gardens and French gardens (also known as the Grand Parterre).

b) When do each of the gardens date from?
Garden of Diane was designed as a private garden for Catherine dei Medici, in the mid 14th centrury. This garden has been redesigned several times over the following centuries.

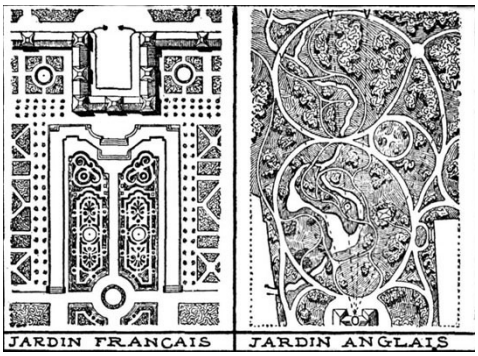
English gardens, designed by Maximilien Joseph Hutault at the request of Napoleon I, in 1812.

French Gardens or the Grand Parterre, designed by Le Notre under Louis XIV between 1660 and 1664.

c) What is an English garden? How is it different to the French gardens?

Both English- and French-style gardens are founded on the principles of the original English garden, introduced into England by the Romans in the 1st century. The English-style garden attempts to set the garden into the natural landscape, allowing some wild elements. Ponds, expanses of lawns, groves of trees, chinese pavillions, bridges, imitation ruins and sculptures are common features of English gardens. English gardens do not follow strict symetrical patterns.

French-style gardens began in the 16th century with heavy Italian design influence. They are particularly associated with French architect André Le Notre, who designed the French gardens at the Château of Fontainebleau. French gardens are formal and follow strict geometric layouts. The shrubs and bushes are frequently trimmed to prevent an overgrown look. The garden plan often branches out from a centrepiece, with gravel paths radiating outwards. Geometric pools, formal lawns, parterres, fountains and sculptures, all in a regular pattern, are features of this type of garden.



d) Who is Diana on Diana's fountain and what does she represent?
Diane is the goddess of the hunt and wild animals. She represents fertility.

e) What is the function of the building on the island in the middle of the carp pond?
The Pavillion was built as a folly by La Vau in 1662, a counterpoint to the Grand Parterre or French gardens by Le Notre.

4. NAPOLEON BONAPARTE and the Château of Fontainebleau:

Research Napoleon I in Fontainebleau. Include what he and his entourage used the Château for, his reign, his hat and his abdication. (optional: what aspects did he change?).
Napoleon used the Château as a prison for Pope Pius VII, to baptize his nephew, to hunt and most importantly this is where he abdicated. He did not come very often during his reign as he was often away in battle, but he restored the Château, whose furniture had been sold or burnt during the revolution, to be his residence. He had a suite of six rooms modified and furnished for his use, known as He abdicated on the 4th of April 1814 under pressure from his marechals and the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which formalised Napoleon's abdication, was signed on 11th April 1814 in the Salon Particulier de l'Empereur, also called the Salon de l'Abdication of 1814. Napoleon gave his emotional goodbyes to the army in the Court of Honour.

Napoleon's bicorne (hat) is well-known. He wore it during famous battles like the battle of Waterloo.

Many of the rooms in the Château were refurnished for Napoleon in the Empire style and he had the gardens redesigned in the style of English gardens, popular at the time. He also added his symbol, the eagle, to the roofs of the Château.