



#9591

JOAN OF ARC

FILMS FOR THE HUMANITIES & SCIENCES, 1988

Grade Levels: 10-13+

11 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Joan of Arc, born in 1412, rallied the French army to victory against the English in 1428. Burned as a witch in 1431, she remains today a symbol of strength, faith, and patriotism.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: World History

- ★ Standard: Understands patterns of crisis and recovery in Afro-Eurasia between 1300 and 1450
 - Benchmark: Understands the significance of Joan of Arc (e.g., her role in the Hundred Years War; her subsequent trial and execution; the Church's review of her trial 25 years later, and her revered image as a patron saint of France) (See Instructional Goals #1 and 2.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To present the role of Joan of Arc in the Hundred Years War and her subsequent trial and execution.
2. To examine the spiritual motivation of Joan of Arc and her path to sainthood.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The life of Joan of Arc must be considered against the background of the later stages of the Hundred Years War (1339-1453). The war, which had begun in 1339 and continued intermittently till the 1380s, had caused severe hardship in France. In 1392 the insanity of the French king, Charles VI, had provided the opportunity for two factions to struggle for control of the king and kingdom.

In 1420, French king Charles VI, English monarch Henry V, and French aristocrat, Philip the Good of Burgundy agreed to the Treaty of Troyes. The treaty disinherited Charles VI's son, the Dauphin Charles (later Charles VII). Charles VI also implied that the Dauphin was illegitimate. The Dauphin was reduced to holding the south of France. He was in perpetual fear that the key city of Orleans, the gateway to his lands, might be captured by the English. In the autumn of 1428, the English laid siege to Orleans. The Dauphin, naturally apathetic, and lacking in men and money, could do nothing. By the spring of 1429, the city appeared about to fall and with it the hopes of Charles VII.

VOCABULARY

1. rallied
2. deserted
3. burned at the stake
4. cathedral
5. tormented
6. archangel
7. obstacles
8. heir
9. mission
10. suit of armor
11. nobility
12. immoral
13. wounded
14. coronation
15. patrol
16. customary
17. ransom
18. sorceress
19. heresy
20. fate
21. take heed
22. verdict
23. executioners

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Find the following places on a map of France: Domremy, Chinon, Orleans, and Rouen.
2. Review the historical background of the life of Joan of Arc. Consider the Hundred Years War, the Treaty of Troyes, and the Dauphin Charles (later called Charles VII).

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. What was life like in 15th century France? What threats to personal safety and belief influenced daily life?
2. What was Joan's personal and family background?
3. What motivated Joan to go see the Dauphin? What was her goal?
4. What did she accomplish as a teenager? What was she like as a soldier?
5. Why did some consider her to be evil? How was she captured? What was her trial like? Why was she burned at the stake?
6. How was she eventually declared a saint? How long did this take?

► Applications and Activities

1. Role-play Joan of Arc's early angelic visions or her trial. Use information from the video in addition to further research.
2. Write a journal entry describing first impressions of Joan of Arc. Consider the Dauphin's first meeting with Joan, one of the judges who condemned her, and one of the persons who declared her a saint.
3. Imagine a modern day Joan of Arc. Consider the obstacles she might encounter describing her vision to a U.S. president, becoming a military leader while in her teens, and facing trial unsupported after capture.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [An American Revolution: Women Take Their Place #8430](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ST. JOAN OF ARC CENTER**

<http://www.stjoan-center.com/>

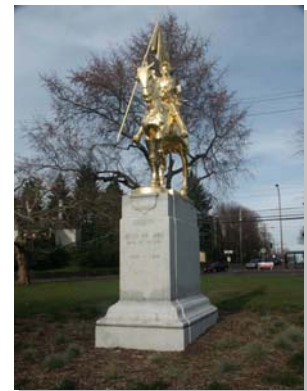
In addition to detailed historical information, this site includes photos, frequently asked questions, and art. Bibliography includes books, films, plays, music, and numerous websites.



- **JOAN OF ARC ARCHIVE**

<http://members.aol.com/hywwebsite/private/joanofarc.html>

This archive of information presents Joan of Arc as she was described in historical documents. Site includes an overview of her life and trial, excerpts from the trial documents, letters, and other manuscripts (either in translation and/or in the original Latin and French). Nearly 300 pages are currently online.



- **PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF JOAN OF ARC**

<http://www.litrix.com/joan/joan001.htm>

Written by Joan of Arc's page and secretary and translated from ancient French into modern English, this lengthy autobiography is a primary source that is in the public domain.