

ADA 10: Background Information on Joan of Arc

- Joan of Arc, also known as Jeanne or Jehanne D’Arc, is born in 1412 to Jacques and Isabelle d’Arc in Domremy, France.
- In 1424, when Joan is twelve years old, she reports being visited by “visions” of Saint Catherine, Saint Margaret and Archangel Michael.
- During this period, an internal war has broken out between two factions of the French Royal Family: the “Orleanist” or “Armagnac” side and the “Burgundians.”
- The Burgundians are supported by King Henry V of England who has invaded northern France; Duke Philip supports Henry V as the heir to the French throne.
- In 1428 the visions tell Joan to go to the Royal Court in France and drive out the English, as the Dauphin Charles of Orleans is rightful heir to the throne.
- In order to see Dauphin Charles, Joan must go to Valcoulers and obtain an escort to the Royal Court; Joan makes three attempts to see the Dauphin.
- In 1428 Orleans is taken siege by the English and Dauphin Charles has little hope of winning; he agrees to see Joan at the Royal Court.
- Joan is escorted through enemy territory to Chinon, the seat of the Royal Court. She is dressed in male clothing to disguise and protect her.
- Joan spends 11 days travelling to Chinon to meet the Dauphin Charles.
- Joan gains the Dauphin’s trust by telling him of a private prayer he had made to God to aid him; she also claims that her visions have told her that he is the rightful heir to the French throne.
- The Lord Dauphin is won over by Joan; she then sends the English a series of letters telling them to leave France.
- Joan wins over the French army and defeats the English in battle at Orleans.

- Joan has a series of military successes and defeats and at Easter 1430 her voices warn her that she will be captured.
 - Joan's army is ambushed by Burgundian troops in Compiègne and she is swarmed and captured; they refuse the ransom offered for her from the Lord Dauphin.
 - After four months in prison Joan is sold to the English and put on trial in Rouen, where the English occupation government is located.
 - She is kept in a military prison with English soldiers rather than in a women's prison and begins to dress in male clothing to protect herself from male inmates and guards.
 - Joan is put on trial in 1431 and accused of witchcraft, heresy and cross-dressing.
 - She is the only witness called and is ultimately convicted and sentenced to death by burning.
 - Joan is burned to death in Rouen.
 - 24 years after her death a new trial is ordered and her charges are overturned.
 - In 1909 Joan is beatified as a saint by the Catholic church.
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Sources:

Biography Online www.biographyonline.net

History Guide www.historyguide.org

The Saint Joan of Arc Center www.st-joancenter.com