

100 years war

Name:

Date:

100 Years War assignment. In groups you will complete one of the following tasks. You will then share out to the class. Use your book (pages 337-340) AND the reading attached to fill out the information for your section. Be prepared to share!!

Group 1: Causes of the war (List and describe ALL causes)

Group 2: Important people. Explain who the people are and how they are connected to one another.

Use the following people and create a “family tree” that indicates the roles of these individuals in the 100 Years War as well as their relationships with one another. Charles IV, Edward III, Philip VI, Black Prince, King John, Henry V, Charles VII, Joan of Arc, Isabella, Charles V and his daughter Catherine, and Henry VI.

England	France

Group 3: Major battles and their descriptions (Split these up! That is why your group is bigger!!)

1. Crecy, 1346:
2. Poitiers, 1356:
3. Agincourt, 1415.

**1420: Treaty of Troyes:

4. Maid of Orleans, 1453.

Group 4: New weapons and their impact on society

Group 5: Overall effects of the war and the map

List the overall effects of the war on Europe (and the world?). Also, create a map on an 8x11 sheet of paper that has arrows indicating major battles and changes brought about by the war. Use the attached maps and your book to help you.

The Hundred Years War

Groups 1 and 2: causes of Hundred Years War and the people involved

The struggle between France and England called the Hundred Years' War was the longest war in recorded history. It lasted, with some interruptions, through the reigns of five English kings (Edward III to Henry V) and five French kings (Philip VI to Charles VII).

The underlying cause of the war lay in the feudal system. Since the time of Henry II the English king had been duke of the great duchy of Guienne in southwest France. For this fief he did homage to the king of France. Philip VI, the French king, was bent on destroying the power of his feudal vassals. England would not meekly submit to the loss of Guienne. Since the Norman Conquest in 1066 England's rulers had been French with strong ties to the French monarchy. In 1328 Charles IV, King of France, died childless.

The strongest claim to the throne was Queen Isabella of England, Charles' sister, and her teen aged son, King Edward III. Horrified that an English King might actually come to sit on the French throne the nobles of France gave the crown to Philip of Valois. They based this action on Salic Law and ancient German rule that denied high office to females. Indeed, Edward III claimed that he himself was rightfully the king of France because his mother was a sister of the late French king, while Philip VI was only a cousin.

Edward was content with Philip being king of France until in 1337 when Philip confiscated Aquitaine, a huge section of southwestern France that traditionally belonged to English kings. Edward had a choice. Let Aquitaine go or take the French throne.

To complicate matters, taking Aquitaine made many French barons nervous. If Philip could violate longstanding feudal obligations and take Edward's land, he could do the same to them. To counter the French king many French nobles transferred their loyalty to Edward. Thus the 100 year's war became an extended French Civil War with much of France's aristocracy fighting on the side of the English.

The immediate cause of the war was economic. The wool trade between England and Flanders, the northeastern section of France in what is now Belgium, was the cornerstone of both countries economies. English sheep growers sold their long fine wool to weavers in Flanders, across the English Channel. Flemish weavers as well as English sheep growers depended on this trade for their livelihood. In 1336 Philip VI arrested all English merchants in Flanders and took away the privileges of the Flemish towns and the craft guilds. The Flemings revolted against French control and made an alliance with England.

Flanders was divided between pro-English traders and manufacturers and pro-French aristocrats.

Group 3: The Battles

1. Crecy A Great English Victory

In July 1346 Edward III landed in Normandy with an army of about 10,000 men. The French pursued him to Crecy, where the English occupied the side of a little hill. On the plain below, outnumbering the English four to one, Philip



VI commanded a disorderly host of mounted French men-at-arms and hired Genoese crossbowmen on foot. Edward had all his men dismount because they were armed with the new longbow.

Suddenly the Genoese advanced to the attack. But they were tired after a long day's march, and their crossbow strings were loosened by the wetting received in a terrific thundershower. Although they "shot fiercely with their crossbows," they were no match for the more rapid shooting of the English longbowmen, whose shafts "fell so thick that it seemed snow." When the Genoese saw the arrows falling thick among them they threw down their bows and ran. At this King Philip flew into a rage and cried out, "Slay these rascals, for they will trouble us without reason!" Whereupon his men-at-arms dashed in among the Genoese and slew a great number of them.

"And ever still," says the chronicler Froissart, "the Englishmen shot where they saw the thickest press. The sharp arrows pierced the knights and their horses, and many fell, both horse and man. And when they were down they could not rise again, the press was so thick that one overthrew another."

In one place the French managed to reach a band of dismounted English knights under the command of the Black Prince, the 16-year-old son of Edward III. In haste the knights dispatched a messenger to the king asking aid. The king was watching the battle from the tower of a windmill. When their request was made known to him, he inquired: "Is my son dead, or hurt, or felled to earth?"

"No, sire," said the messenger, "but he is overmatched and has need of aid."

"Then," replied the king, "return to them that sent you, and say to them that they send no more to me, so long as my son is alive; and also say to them that they suffer him this day to win his spurs, for I will that this day's work be his, and the honor thereof."

As darkness fell the remnants of the French army were fleeing in confusion. The English lines remained firm in their position on the hill.

Thus the English won the first great land battle of the long war. Before this battle they had already won command of the English Channel by a spectacular naval victory at Sluys, and after Crecy, the town of Calais, the door into France, surrendered to them on Sept. 28, 1347, after a year's siege.

For almost ten years after that the fighting lagged. This was caused in part by a great pestilence called the **Black Death**, which swept over Europe and killed more than a third of the population

Not until 1355 was the struggle between the two countries renewed. The English now carried the conflict into southern France instead of confining it to the northern section as before. At Poitiers (1356) the Black Prince with a small army of Englishmen was confronted by an overwhelming French force. In vain the prince offered to surrender his spoils and his prisoners and to promise not to fight for seven years if he might be allowed a safe retreat. This offer was rejected, so certain did the French feel of victory.

2. Poitiers and 3. Agincourt

The Black Prince arranged his troops on a plateau where they were protected at the flanks by a hedge and by rough and marshy ground. The brave but inefficient French King John lost his advantage of superior numbers by ordering his knights, weighted down with their armor, to dismount and advance on foot against the hail of English arrows. One after another the three divisions of the French army were thrown into confusion. King John and his youngest son, refusing to flee, were taken captive by the English forces. Once again the victory was the result of the new English weapon the longbow.

The horrors of a peasants' revolt and civil strife were now added to the miseries of France. A treaty with England was finally concluded at Bretigny in 1360, by which King John was to pay a large money ransom and Edward III was to have Guienne, Crecy, and Calais in full sovereignty. In return Edward renounced all claim to the French crown.

But in 1369 the new king of France, Charles V, physically weak but intellectually strong, found an excuse for breaking the treaty and renewing the war. Aided by the able Breton general Bertrand du Guesclin, he organized an army of professional soldiers instead of knights and by cautious maneuvering brought one place after another into his hands. Only Calais in the north and Bordeaux in the south remained to the English at the time of Charles's death in 1380.

For nearly a generation the war then languished because of factional strife for power in both England and France. In France the situation was aggravated by the fact that Charles VI, who was now king, suffered frequent periods of insanity. Soon after the accession in 1413 of Henry V, the hero king of England, the struggle began again.

The next engagement took place at Agincourt near Crecy, where in 1415 a small English force was once more confronted by a large French army. The French, it seemed, had learned nothing from the disasters of Crecy and Poitiers or from the exploits of Charles V and Du Guesclin. As in the two former great battles, their forces consisted of dismounted knights weighted down with heavy armor. Again they were packed close together in a narrow newly plowed field between two woods. They sank almost to their knees in the soft soil. A third great English victory, equal to those of Crecy and Poitiers, was the result.

By the **Treaty of Troyes** (1420) the defeated and disunited French agreed that Henry V should marry Catherine of Valois, the daughter of Charles VI of France. It was further agreed that during Charles's lifetime Henry should act as regent and that after Charles's death Henry should reign as king of France as well as of England. Henry did not live to wear the French crown, for he died in 1422. Seven weeks later Charles also died, and the death of these two monarchs left the claim to both thrones to Henry VI, the 9-month-old son of Henry V and Queen Catherine.

The English claims in France, however, were disputed by the disinherited dauphin of France, later Charles VII, who refused to accept the Treaty of Troyes. For a time he was too weak to be feared, and at the end of seven years it seemed that Orleans, his last considerable stronghold, would surely fall.

4. Maid of Orleans

Just at this darkest moment in the fortunes of France, a new force appeared in the person of Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans. Inspired by her patriotism, the French forced the English to raise the siege of Orleans. Victory followed victory in rapid succession, until finally Joan led the dauphin through a hostile country to be crowned at Reims as King Charles VII. Even after Joan's capture and execution by the English and Burgundians, her spirit seemed to inspire the French and to wake in them a new national sentiment. Little by little they drove the English back. Finally the war ended in 1453 with only Calais remaining in English hands.

Instead of winning the French throne for the English king, the Hundred Years' War had lost for him the last of those continental possessions that had once been held by Henry II. The French king, who no longer numbered a powerful rival monarch among his vassals, soon established an almost absolute power in his kingdom. He enjoyed a permanent revenue and could count on the advice of able counselors. He was also supported by a standing army equipped with modern artillery for cannon had come into use either at the battle of Crecy or shortly thereafter.

One lasting result of the hundred years' conflict was that the struggle to expel the foreigner from their soil had planted in the French the seed of the intense patriotism that came to characterize France. But nationalistic sentiment had been bought at a heavy price. More than 100 years of intermittent warfare had taken place on French soil. Any advantages that France gained were countered by the fearful losses inflicted on its land and people, the check to population, and the brutalization that accompanied the long-continued conflict.

Group 4: Weapons and their effects



The most famous weapon was the Welsh (or English) longbow of the yeoman archer; while not a new weapon at the time, it played a significant role in the strategic advantage it gave the English. The French mainly counted on crossbows, many times manned by Genoese men. The crossbow was used because it took little training or skill to operate. It however was slow to reload, prone to damage (rain could easily damage it), and lacked the accuracy of the longbow. The longbow was a weapon of skill and required a lifetime to be proficient at it. It also required tremendous strength to use requiring tension rates of around one hundred pounds to draw. It was the wide spread use of it in the British Isles that gave the English the ability to use it as a weapon. It was the tactical developments that brought it to prominence. The English in their battles with the Scots had learned through defeat what dismounted bowmen in fixed positions could do to heavy horse. Since the arrows shot from a longbow could kill or incapacitate plate armored knights a charge could be dissipated before it ever reached an army's lines. The longbow enabled an often-outnumbered English army to pick battle locations, fortify, and destroy opposing armies. For some reason as the Hundred Years' War came to a close the number of able longbow men began to drop off and therefore the longbow as a weapon became less viable as there were not the men to wield them.

A number of new weapons were introduced during the Hundred Years' War as well. Gunpowder, firearms and cannons played significant roles as early as 1375. The last battle of the war, the Battle of Castillon, was the first battle in European history where artillery was the deciding factor. The early phase of the war triggered the development and rising popularity of the longsword, and the longbow success triggered transformations in armour (eg plate armour).

The consequences of these new weapons meant that the nobility was no longer the deciding factor in battle; peasants armed with longbows or firearms could gain access to the power, rewards and prestige once reserved only for knights who bore arms. The composition of armies changed, from feudal lords who may or may not show up when called by their lord, to paid mercenaries. By the end of the war, both France and England were able to raise enough money through taxation to create standing armies, the first time since the fall of the Western Roman Empire that there were standing armies in Western or Central Europe. Standing armies represented an entirely new form of power for kings. Not only could they defend their kingdoms from invaders, but standing armies could also protect the king from internal threats and also keep the population in check. It was a major step in early developments towards new monarchies and nations and entirely broke down the Medieval orders.

Group 5: Effects of the Hundred Years War:

Intense Nationalistic feeling grew in both England and France

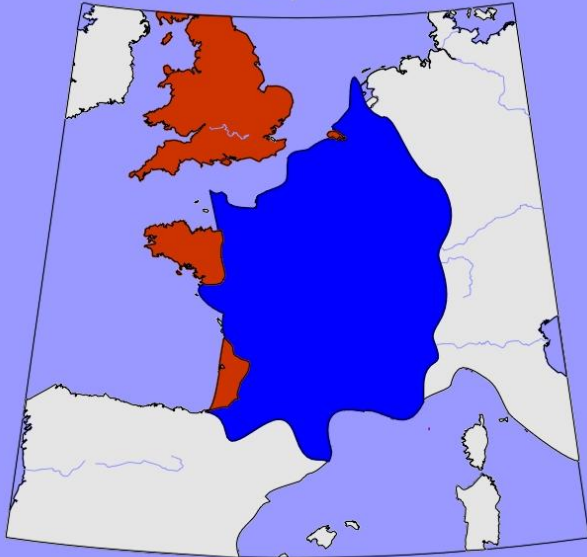
Most of the war was fought on French soil so there were great population and property losses that weakened France for the next hundred years.

England lost territory in France but it allowed the English kings to centralize their power further and concentrate only on the English nobles.

New weapons were introduced which weakened the power of the Knights and the castle thus ensuring the destruction of the feudal system in both England and France.

The system continued in many of the Eastern European region especially Russia but was absent in Spain, Portugal, city-states in Italy, Prussia, and the Holy Roman Empire.

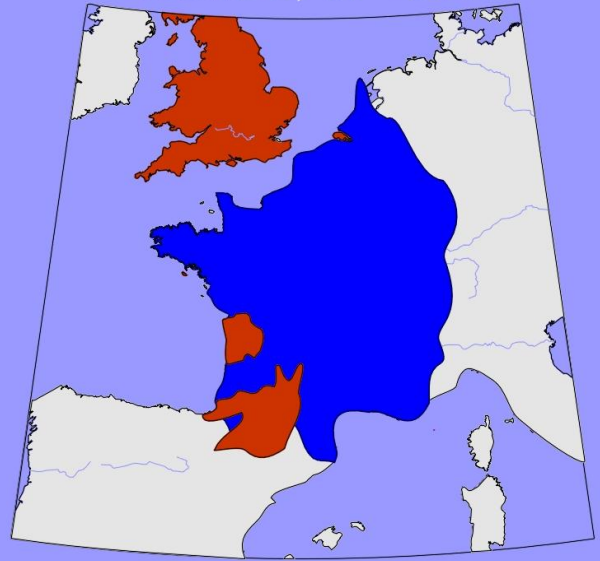
France, c. 1337



England

France

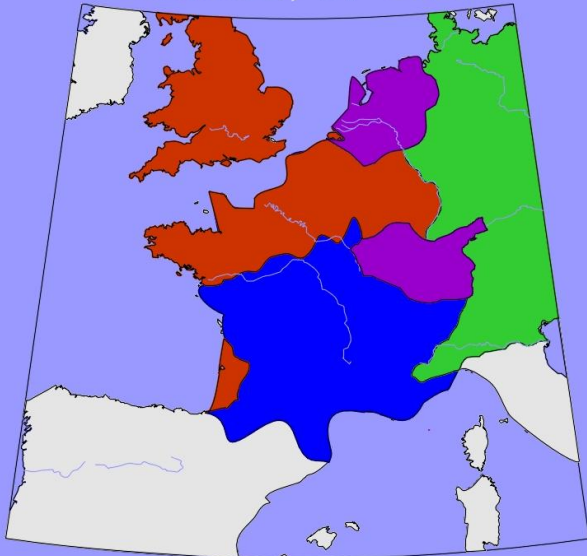
France, c. 1377



England

France

France, c. 1429



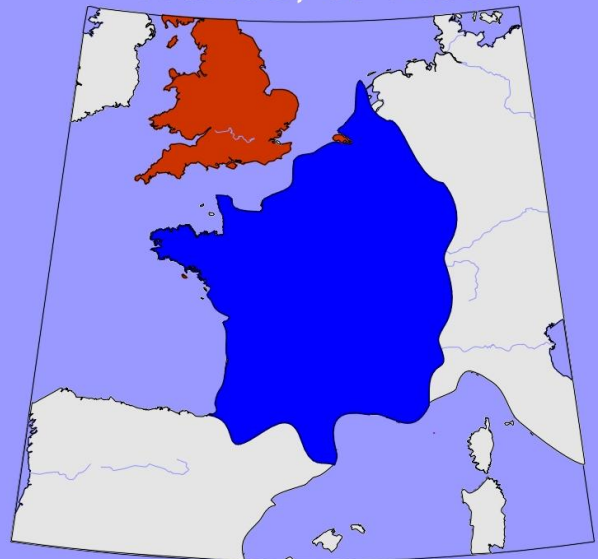
England

France

Duchy of Burgundy

Holy Roman Empire

France, c. 1453



England

France