



Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc was born around 1412 in France. At the time, the French and English were fighting in the Hundred Years' War. Joan was born a peasant but became a military leader as a teenager. This was unusual because, at the time, women did not serve in the military. But Joan believed she had a holy calling to lead her country against the English in the war.

During the war, the English had taken control of much of France. As a result, the heir to the French throne, Charles VII, had not been crowned king.

Joan travelled to meet with Charles VII to convince him to let her lead soldiers in the battle against the English. The king's advisers were unsure about Joan. Others said she must be a witch. But Charles sent her into battle in the French city of Orléans, where she led the army to victory.

Joan of Arc took part in other battles. In 1430, she was separated from her soldiers and captured. The English put her on trial, and she was accused of witchcraft and of pretending to be a male soldier. At first, Joan confessed to the charges but later took back her statement.

In 1431 she was put to death for the crimes that she was accused of. She was only 19 when she died.

Centuries later, the Catholic Church made Joan of Arc a saint and she has been remembered for her actions for hundreds of years, and in many countries.



1. What event led to Joan of Arc being put on trial by the English?
 - She was separated from her soldiers while in battle.
 - She was leading soldiers into battle.
 - The saints told her to drive the English out of France.
 - She led the French to victory in battle in the city of Orléans.
2. Which of the following best explains why Joan of Arc was canonized as a saint?
 - She thought the saints were important.
 - She was brave and fought for her country and her faith.
 - She prayed and asked to be canonized.
 - She became a military leader as a teenager.



