The Bourbons

Louis XIII
1610-1643
- Louis was the 2nd Bourbon king.
- Gained the throne at the age of 9.
- Sickly and timid he allowed Cardinal Richelieu to run the country.

Cardinal Richelieu
- Believed in the Divine Right of Kings.
- Richelieu became Premier Minister to Louis XIII in 1624.
- Louis exiled his mother rather than give up his valuable minister.

Cardinal Richelieu
- Under Richelieu:
  1. Monarchy gained absolute control.
  2. The nobility was brought under the control of the king.
  3. France became a world power.

Louis XIV
The Sun King
- Claimed the Divine Right of Kings.
- Louis believed the destiny of France revolved around him the way the earth revolves around the Sun.
- "I am the State"

The Palace of Versailles
- Took 47 years to build
- The cost may have exceeded 100 million dollars.
- Versailles had enough rooms to house 10,000 people.
The Palace of Versailles

- During a time when many French people did not have shelter or enough to eat, Louis XIV built the lavish Palace of Versailles outside of Paris.

The Palace of Versailles

- The palace served two purposes.
- Louis hosted huge banquets and encouraged his nobles to stay at Versailles so as to keep an eye on them.

The Reign of Louis XIV
1638-1715

- Louis XIV symbolized the true absolute monarch.
- Louis lived a lavish life at Versailles.
- When Louis XIV died in 1715 he left a legacy of absolute rule, social unrest, and economic debt that would lead to revolution.