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Who Was Marie Antoinette?



Synopsis

From the palaces of Austria to the mirrored halls of Versailles, Marie Antoinette led a charmed life. She was born into royalty in 1755 and married the future king of France at age 15. By 21 she ascended to the throne and enjoyed a lavish lifestyle of masquerade balls, sky-high wigs, and extravagant food. But her taste for excess ruffled many feathers. The poor people of France blamed Marie Antoinette for their poverty. Her spending helped incite the French Revolution. And after much public outcry, in 1793 she quite literally lost her head because of it. Whether she was blameless or guilty is debatable, but Marie Antoinette remains woven into the fabric of history and popular culture.

Book Information

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Series: Who Was?

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Dana Meachen Rau has written more than 300 books for children, including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, and biographies.

Who Was Marie Antoinette? On April 21, 1770, fifteen-year-old Marie Antoinette left home and traveled to France. She had always lived a royal life. Her parents were the emperor and empress of Austria. The young archduchess was leaving behind her beloved homeland. She was engaged to marry Louis Auguste, the future king of France. Marie Antoinette rode in a jeweled coach amid a

parade of more than fifty other carriages. Hairdressers, chefs, and other attendants traveled with her for the two-and-a-half-week journey. Peasants cheered along the road between Vienna, Austria, and Strasbourg, France. They hoped to catch a glimpse of the young bride-to-be.

I'm a huge fan of both Marie Antoinette and the Who Was? book series, and I was very impressed by the simplicity of this book. It sums up the key points of her life while being appropriate to young readers. The biography also helps explain to younger readers the time that Marie Antoinette lived in, and I consider it one of the best (short) biographies about the last Queen of France. It is a perfect addition to the "Who Was?" book series, and one you should definitely consider buying!

We saw the exhibit at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco "Royal Treasures from Louis XIV to Marie-Antoinette" approximately three years ago. They remember the magnificent jewels and treasures. They learned when they were 3 years old about Louis XIV, XV XVI to Marie-Antoinette. We did not learn until we read books about the source of "let them eat cake" came from 100 years before Marie-Antoinette. I also did not appreciate that she was an easy target for political reasons (because she was from Austria etc.). Of course, she did partake in the parties and lavish spending but it is possible had she had guidance from her mother she would have fared better.

This was a Great Little book to get a snapshot view of a fascinating woman. I learned a lot in a little bit of time investment.

Be aware that the 2 page description of her death is more detailed than might be ideal. We all know what happened, but I'm not sure my elementary school students need to be filled with such imagery.

My students love these books!

Love these books

I loved this book! It had a lot of useful information about Marie Antoinette. Not good for really little kids because it talks about how Marie Antoinette died. It was an awesome book!!!!

My children love those books and so do I. They are easy to read and yet detailed enough to make it interesting and instructive.

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