**Marie Antoinette**



**DOB/DOD (**2 November 1755 – 16 October 1793)

Queen of France and Navarre from 1774 to 1792. She was the fifteenth and penultimate child of Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor and Empress Maria Theresa. Her Husband was Louis XVI King of France.

**Early Life:**

Marie Antoinette was born in Hofburg Palace, Vienna. She was the youngest daughter of father Francis I and mother Maria Theresa. She was raised under the care of a governess with her older sister. Marie Antoinette could not read or write at the age of ten however was talented in playing the Harp and Flute.

**Queen of France:**

On the 11th June 1775, King Louis XVI’s coronation took place at the cathedral of Reims. Marie Antoinette was not crowned alongside him. She had limited political influence with her husband. Her popularity began to tarnish in the eyes of both the middle and lower classes. The Pouf and the Panache were her chosen adopted hairstyles. She became a fashion model to the ladies at court.

In August 1777, the marriage between King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette was finally consummated. Marie Antoinette gave birth to her daughter, Marie-Therese Charlotte, Madame Royale on the 19th December 1778.

**Politics:**

Marie Antoinette’s political influence greatly benefited Austria. During the Kettle war, her brother Joseph attempted to open the Scheldt River for naval passage; Marie Antoinette’s successfully in obliging Vergennes to pay a huge financial compensation to Austria. The queen was able to obtain her brothers support against Great Britain in the American Revolution and she neutralized French hostility to his alliance with Russia.

**French Revolution, Trial and execution:** October 14: Marie Antoinette is put on trial on charges ranging from treason to her role in the Diamond Necklace Affair and sexually abusing her son, the dauphin.

October 15: Before nine male judges, an all-male jury, which unanimously condemns her to death, finds Marie Antoinette guilty on all counts.

October 16: Marie Antoinette is executed by guillotine.