Versailles WebQuest

You will use the Versailles Web Site to explore an Absolute Monarch, Louis XIV, the “Sun King.” Go to http://www.chateauversailles.fr/ Click on “English” at the top of the screen. Take a moment to look over the opening page. Notice the 9 categories. We will focus on “Explore the Estate” and “History”

1. Click on “The Palace” (left side bar)
   ▪ Who had Versailles built? ___________________________ When did it become the official residence of the court of France? _______ Why did he have Versailles built? ___________________________

2. Click on “Explore the Estate”, on the main page, click on “The Hall of Mirrors”
   ▪ What is the significance of the Hall of Mirrors, both then and later?
   ▪ What motivation do you think would a person have to build such a room?

3. Across the top of the main picture, click on “The King’s Grand Apartment”
   ▪ Why do you think Louis XIV’s bedchamber was the exact center of the chateau?

4. Explore another place at the palace, __________________________
   ▪ Describe it.

5. Across the top of the page, click on “History.” Click on “A Day in the Life of Louis XIV,” on the main picture.
   ▪ How many people attended the “full levee?” ________
   ▪ Why would a French noble compete for this “honor?” (read more about this in “Courtiers” #6)
   ▪ Reading through this page, you can see that Louis XIV had no privacy. How is this connected with his statement, “I am the State.”?

6. Across the top of the main picture, click on “Courtiers.”
   ▪ What does the name “Courtiers” mean?
   ▪ How many people went to Versailles on a daily basis? __________________________
   ▪ Name three ways that status in the court was shown.
     1. ____________________________________________________________
     2. ____________________________________________________________
     3. ____________________________________________________________
7. Across the top of the main picture, click on “Royal Tables” and explore the different festivities and ceremonies.
   - Name 3 interesting things about dinner at the Royal Table
     1.
     2.
     3.

8. Across the top above the main picture, click on “Court Characters.” Explore Louis XIV.
   - How old was Louis when he became king? _____________
   - Why did Louis XIV choose the sun as his emblem?
   - What are some of the comparisons he wanted to make between himself and Apollo, the Sun God?
   - Look at the portrait of Louis XIV. Describe what you see.

9. Click on “Louis XVI Time.” Explore Louis XIV.
   - He married to __________________________. They had _________ children.
   - He was _____ years old when he became king.
   - Describe his leadership. How was he different than Louis XIV?

10. Explore another court character, __________________________
    - Describe him/her and why this person was important.

11. Using the knowledge that you have just gained, list three ways that Louis XIV used the palace at Versailles to enhance or strengthen his authority and power as an absolute monarch.