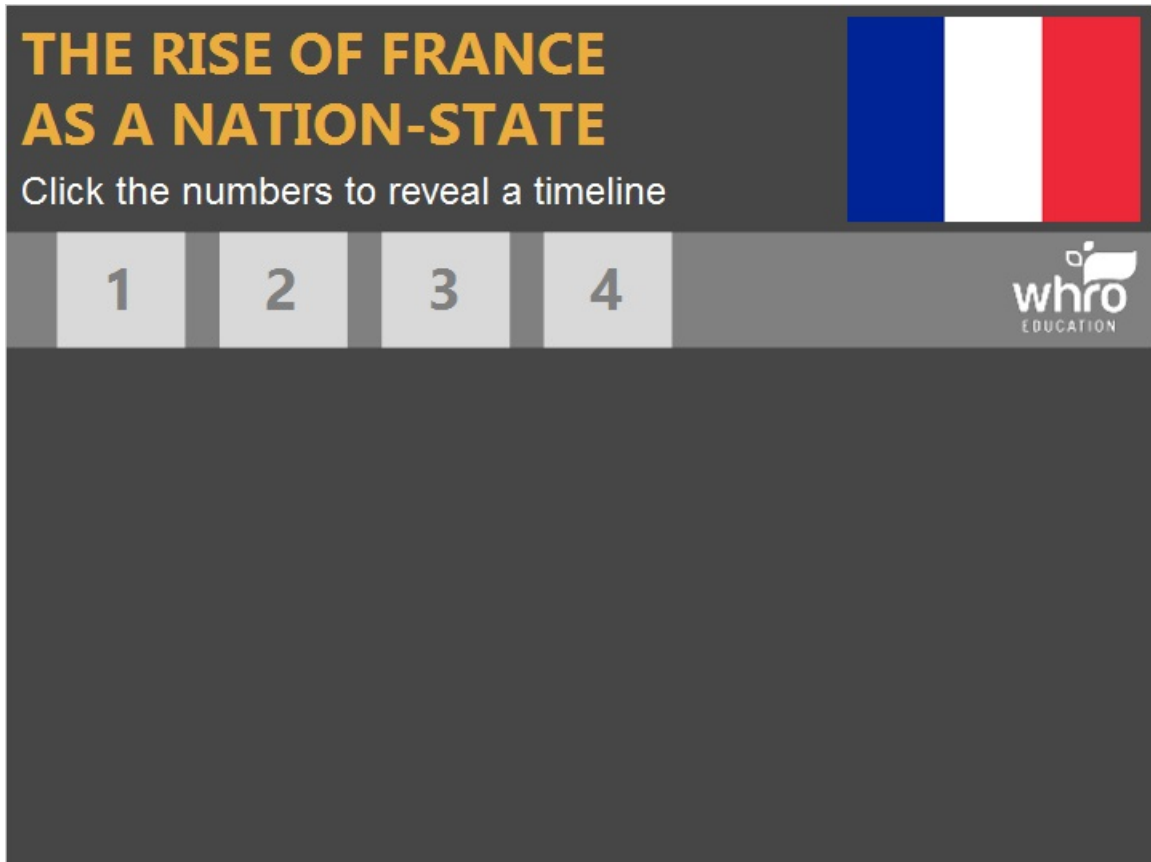


Module 11: The High Middle Ages
Topic 1 Content: The Rise of France as a Nation-State

Introduction



**THE RISE OF FRANCE
AS A NATION-STATE**

Click the numbers to reveal a timeline

1 2 3 4

whro
EDUCATION

The image shows a dark grey interactive interface. At the top left, the title 'THE RISE OF FRANCE AS A NATION-STATE' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below the title, the instruction 'Click the numbers to reveal a timeline' is written in white. To the right of the title is a small French flag. Below the title and instruction is a horizontal bar with four grey rectangular buttons labeled '1', '2', '3', and '4'. To the right of these buttons is the 'whro EDUCATION' logo, which consists of the word 'whro' in a stylized font with a leaf-like graphic above the 'o', and the word 'EDUCATION' in a smaller font below it.

Click the numbers to reveal a timeline. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.

Module 11: The High Middle Ages

Topic 1 Content: The Rise of France as a Nation-State

Hugh Capet and Philip II

THE RISE OF FRANCE AS A NATION-STATE

Hugh Capet & Philip II

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

- 987 A.D. (C.E.)**
Hugh Capet became king
(Depicted in the image)
- Strong Government**
Philip II (Augustus)
Paris



France started to unify as a nation-state when Hugh Capet became king of the Franks in 987 A.D. (C.E.). While already holding the title Duke of the Franks, Capet was elected by his peers and crowned king. His dynasty gradually gained control over most of France. Another major factor in the unification of France was that a strong government emerged under Philip II, also called Augustus. Under Philip II, an already ancient fishing village astride the Seine River, called Paris, became the capital of France.

Module 11: The High Middle Ages

Topic 1 Content: The Rise of France as a Nation-State

Charles VII and Louis XI

**THE RISE OF FRANCE
AS A NATION-STATE**

Charles VII & Louis XI

1 2 3 4

Charles VII
Permanent standing army
Taxation
(Depicted in the image)

Louis XI
Expanded territory
Unified France

A portrait of Charles VII, King of France, wearing a blue hat and a red robe, seated in a chair. The portrait is framed by white curtains. A small magnifying glass icon is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.

Charles VII established a permanent standing army and a system of taxation. His son, Louis XI, further expanded French territory and unified France.

Module 11: The High Middle Ages

Topic 1 Content: The Rise of France as a Nation-State

Hundred Years' War

THE RISE OF FRANCE AS A NATION-STATE

Hundred Years' War

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



- 1337 - 1453 A.D. (C.E.)
France defeated England
- Weapons**
Gunpowder allowed for cannons (depicted in the image)
Crossbows (France)
Longbows (England)

The defeat of England in the Hundred Years' War proved a significant factor in France's unification as a nation-state. The victory was partially due to the development of gunpowder, for once the French harnessed the ability to use gunpowder, they incorporated cannons into their weaponry to their great advantage. Castles that served as fortresses against invading armies were no match for the destruction wrought by cannons. Another significant weapon was the crossbow. Longbows were favored by the English because they had greater striking power, longer range, and more rapid speed of fire than crossbows. However, longbows required a special caste of warrior who needed specialized training to use the longbow effectively. On the other hand, crossbows could be employed by foot soldiers who were conscripted, or drafted, for battle with no experience and for little expense. These advantages, along with the increased use of professional armies, contributed to the decline of knights and armor.

Module 11: The High Middle Ages


Topic 1 Content: The Rise of France as a Nation-State

Joan of Arc

THE RISE OF FRANCE AS A NATION-STATE

Joan of Arc

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



- Background**
Peasant
Eastern France
Visions from God
- 1429 A.D. (C.E.)**
Became a military leader
Blended in with males
- Siege of Orléans**
French were victorious
- 1430 A.D. (C.E.)**
Capture and death

In addition to advancements in technology, another advantage of the French was their military leadership. One of the most prominent soldiers who fought in the Hundred Years' War was a courageous woman known as Joan of Arc. She was a peasant girl from eastern France who lived in lands that were under English control. According to Joan of Arc's claims, she received visions of God urging her to take back the land from the English. In 1429 A.D. (C.E.), Joan of Arc journeyed to the court of Charles VII, and took private council with him, successfully convincing him to make her a military leader in his army. To blend in with her fellow male soldiers, she cut her hair short, and wore the armor of a knight as she fearlessly fought alongside her fellow Frenchmen. At this point in the war, the French believed they had exhausted every strategy and a loss was inevitable. Then, at a major battle called the Siege of Orléans, Joan of Arc led the French to victory and inspired them to take back their country. Armies swelled with volunteers eager to serve under her leadership. However, in 1430 A.D. (C.E.), she was captured and eventually fell into the hands of the English. Charles VII did not intervene on Joan of Arc's behalf, and she was condemned to death as a heretic.