



Eleanor's father died when she was 15. He left Aquitaine & Poitou to *her*, because he had no sons. Fortune-hunting knights from all over France plotted to kidnap Eleanor & force her to marry them. The man she married *could* then take control her land.

Louis VI, also called Louis the Fat, was the king of France. In theory, he ruled all of France, but his actual kingdom was much *smaller than* Eleanor's. King Louis decided Eleanor should marry his 16-year old son, Louis VII. Then, Aquitaine would be *united* to his own kingdom, which was centered in Paris.

Eleanor, at first, was glad to be marrying a prince. She & Louis VII were married in 1137. Shortly after the wedding, news came that Louis VI had *died from overeating*. Eleanor was now queen of France, so she & Louis went to live in the royal palace in Paris.

The marriage was a great disappointment to both. Louis was very religious, & he was far more like a monk than a noble knight. He loved Eleanor, but could *not* understand her love of pleasure. She tried to make the gloomy royal palace into a festive court like that she had left behind in Aquitaine. She was annoyed because Louis did *not* let her govern equally with him. Both were unhappy because Eleanor did not have a son to inherit the throne. Instead, she bore him two daughters.

Eleanor abandoned her dull life in 1147. Against the protests of Louis, she insisted on joining him on a 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade to Jerusalem, the Holy Land. The Turks were threatening to invade & make Jerusalem part of Muslim territory.

Accompanied by noblewomen, troubadours, & maids, Eleanor joined the crusade. It was a *complete disaster*. Even before they reached Jerusalem, a large part of the army was ambushed by the Turks & suffered terrible losses.

Drawing conclusions: **How** was it that **Eleanor** came to *inherit* Aquitaine as well as Poitou?

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What was **Louis VI's** plan *to acquire* Aquitaine?

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Drawing conclusions: **What** contributed to Eleanor's & Louis' *disappointing* marriage? **List 2.**

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts)

By definition, a "**crusade**" is a(n) \_\_\_\_.  
a. journey to the Holy Land      c. spring vacation  
b. invasion by the Turks          d. Muslim threat

**T or F** (← circle 1): *Even though their crusade suffered terrible losses, it was **considered** a **success** for Louis because Eleanor had voluntarily joined him in his travels.*

For Eleanor, though, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Crusade was not a total loss. She was awed by the splendor of cities like Constantinople & Antioch in the East. There, Greek & Roman learning & living standards *still endured*.

At Antioch, Eleanor met her uncle, Prince Raymond. He turned out to be her *ideal* of a brave & charming knight. Unfortunately, Louis was jealous of their friendship. He insisted that she leave Antioch & continue to Jerusalem. She refused, because she thought that it made little military sense to leave a safe city at that time. Also, she was happier in Antioch than she had ever been in Paris. Finally, she made a formal statement to Louis that she wanted to leave him & remain in Antioch.

Louis was stubborn. He still *loved* Eleanor & did not want to lose the rich lands of Aquitaine & Poitou. One night, he *kidnapped* her & drug her to Jerusalem. Eleanor raged over her own helplessness. This strengthened, no doubt, her decision to leave Louis.

But back in France, Eleanor *demande*d that the Church set aside her marriage. She claimed that Louis & she were blood relations (actually, they were 4<sup>th</sup> cousins). Louis had his own reasons for agreeing to the annulment. He wanted a male heir & hoped that another wife could give him one.

Eleanor had already decided to marry the prince, Henry Plantagenet of Anjou. He was handsome, young, & heir to the throne of England. Even though Eleanor, at 29, was 11 years his senior, she was beautiful, intelligent, cultured & ruled a kingdom much bigger than his own. *She proposed to him*, & he immediately accepted!

Eight weeks after her first marriage ended, Eleanor married Henry. The king of England soon died, & Henry became king. He founded what is now known as the Angevin kingdom. It included England & parts of France.



Eleanor, on the other hand, was thoroughly *enchanted by* the \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ influences in the cities.

Eleanor was happier in Antioch than she ever was in Paris. *Why?* Fill in the blanks of her statement: (← Use this paragraph to complete the sentences below:)

"I *won't* go to \_\_\_\_\_! It *doesn't* make sense to leave a \_\_\_\_\_ city for a dangerous one!"  
Instead, I want to leave you & remain in \_\_\_\_\_"

**T or F** (← circle 1): Because Louis loved Eleanor so dearly, this was his *only* reason for keeping her as his wife.

Louis *finally* agreed to an annulment of marriage *because*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Why** was Eleanor's marriage to Prince Henry so "*unique*" for this time period? **List 2** reasons.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2 pts)

Prince Henry →



Eleanor & Henry had 5 sons & 3 daughters in 13 years! Among them were the future English kings, **Richard the Lionhearted & John**. However, Henry was even less inclined than Louis to share his power with Eleanor. He even insisted on ruling Aquitaine himself. She was allowed to carry out his instructions when he was *out* of the country, but that was all...& it made her angry!

To be fair, Henry was not a bad king. He tried to be just. One of his most important deeds was to introduce the system of "trial by jury," which replaced the system of "trial by ordeal."

After Eleanor had borne her last child, John, Henry fell deeply in love with a beautiful noblewoman, Rosamond Clifford. *This was more than Eleanor could bear!* In 1167, she told Henry that she was leaving him & returning to Aquitaine. Her 4<sup>th</sup> son & favorite child, Richard, was her heir, & she wanted to teach him to govern her land.

In Aquitaine, Eleanor set up the ideal court of her dreams. In Poitiers, her father's palace came alive once again. Troubadours, scholars, & writers flocked to Eleanor's court. She & her 1<sup>st</sup> daughter, **Marie of Champagne**, enjoyed the musicians' flowery compliments & love of poetry.

Eleanor & Marie created a fantasy world where women ruled supreme & men existed *only* to worship them. They recorded their ideals & beliefs in a book called **The Code of Love**. It contained 31 rules for men to obey when dealing with women. Some of these included:

- You must be obedient to the commands of women.
- You must, in all things, be polite & courteous.
- You must be faithful to her whom you love.

Meanwhile, Eleanor's 3 oldest sons ~ **Henry, Richard, & Geoffrey** ~ became worried about their future. King Henry *threatened* to take part of their inherited lands & give them to **John**, his last & favorite son. In 1173, the 3 revolted against Henry. Eleanor & her ex-husband, King Louis, *supported* them.

Of Henry & Eleanor's 8 children, the **most famous** were \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ → **& John**.



Applying past knowledge: Which civilization actually created the idea of "trial by jury"?

- a. Mesopotamia                      c. Greece  
b. Egypt                                d. Rome

II. Eleanor's marriage dissolves

- A. Henry falls in love with another woman  
B. Eleanor **leaves** Henry **with her 4<sup>th</sup> child**, \_\_\_\_\_ (her favorite)

III. Eleanor sets up *ideal court* in \_\_\_\_\_

- A. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ **congregate** at her court  
B. **first daughter**, \_\_\_\_\_, **joins** them  
C. **revel in** musicians & \_\_\_\_\_

Thinking Outside the Box: After reading some of Eleanor's rules of chivalry, create an **appropriate rule** for this time period that *could be added* to her **Code of Love**.

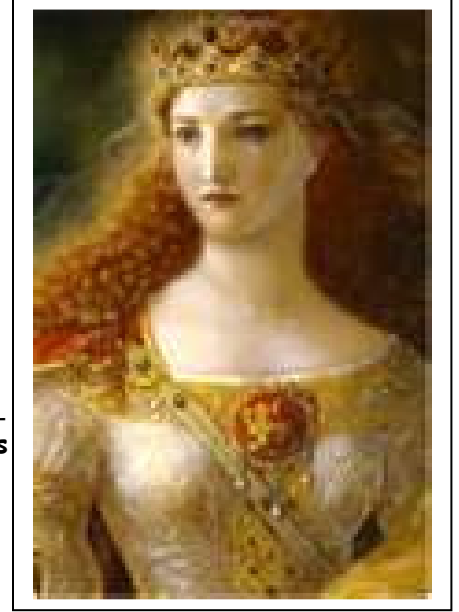
"You must..." \_\_\_\_\_



Henry put down the rebels & made peace with his sons. However, he was not ready to forgive Eleanor. A few months later, he took her prisoner & locked her in a dreary castle in England.

For the next 16 years, until Henry's death, Eleanor was kept under house arrest. She learned as much as she could about politics from her guards, most of whom were nobles. After Henry died, she had a great deal of influence over the Angevin kingdom. Richard, her favorite son, became king of England. Throughout his 10-year reign, Richard spent most of his time on the Crusades to the Holy Land. Eleanor ruled in his place. She finally proved her ability to govern, & govern well!

Some of Eleanor's work survives to this day. Modern manners mirror her ideals that "ladies always go 1<sup>st</sup>," & that a man should always open a door for a woman came from the court of Poitiers. However, Eleanor's deeds went beyond encouraging courtesy. At a French **abbey**, she founded a shelter for battered noblewomen. When she ruled England, she pardoned prisoners whom she thought had been punished enough. She always tried to encourage generosity & justice. Most scholars *consider her the most extraordinary woman of the Middle Ages.*



#### IV. Eleanor's later years

A. *under house*

B. *learned politics from her*

C. *influenced her kingdom*

D. *ruled kingdom in \_\_\_\_\_'s absence*

*Making inferences & thinking beyond the text:*  
Eleanor's "rules of etiquette" were *often called* the "code of \_\_\_\_\_" (who?) ☺

*Drawing conclusions:* Why, *specifically*, would scholars consider Eleanor "*the most extraordinary woman of her time*"? \_\_\_\_\_

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