

Name: _____

Date: _____



Vaux-le-Vicomte

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1. In the virtual tour, stand directly behind the chateau and look towards the gardens. Do you see the green hill at the far end with what appears to be a rock wall with arches at the bottom of it? Right in front of that is a large canal, but you cannot see it from here because of how Le Nôtre designed gardens. This is an example of trompe l'œil, which means “trick of the eye.” Walk down the main path of the garden and figure out how far you have to walk before you can see the canal. How far did you have to go? Once you see the canal, continue down to it. Are you surprised that such a large canal could be hidden so well?

HOW OLD IS
VAUX-LE-VICOMTE?

Enter the current year in the box and subtract the date Vaux-le-Vicomte was completed to find out how old it is!

- 1661

TREASURE HUNT!

Find these three objects



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2. Vaux-le-Vicomte uses extensive *parterres* in the gardens behind the chateau. Parterre is a French word that means “one the ground” and is used to describe the ornate patterns that are made with the low plants. If the plants were as tall as you, how do you think this would change the way you see the pattern?

FASCINATING FACT

King Louis XIV was so jealous of Vaux-le-Vicomte that he imprisoned its owner and hired the designers to create the palace and gardens of Versailles.



3. When André Le Nôtre designed Vaux-le-Vicomte, one of the most important design features he used is the central axis. In design, an axis is an imaginary line, with elements mirrored on either side of the line. This creates a landscape that feels very formal and ordered. To see how an axis works below, use the design on top from the Palace of Versailles and create the mirrored version of the design in the space on the bottom.

