

Women



History



*Drawing of
Eleanor*



*Eleanor's picture
on her official seal*

Eleanor of Aquitaine

Eleanor was born about 1122. She was the eldest daughter of the Duke of Aquitaine. Aquitaine was a rich and powerful area of France.

When Eleanor was very young, her brother and mother died. This made Eleanor the next in line to be ruler of the Aquitaine. Eleanor's father made sure that she had a good education.

In 1137, Eleanor's father died and she became the Duchess of Aquitaine. The king of France became her guardian. Soon after, Eleanor married Louis, the son of the king of France.

A week after the wedding, the king of France died. Louis became king and Eleanor was queen.

In 1145, Louis and Eleanor went with the French army to join a type of war called a crusade. The crusade did not go well for Louis and Eleanor and they returned to France. Louis and Eleanor were unhappy with each other. In 1152, Pope Eugenius dissolved their marriage.

Eleanor then married Henry, the son of the king of England. He became king of England in 1154 and Eleanor was queen. She and Henry would have eight children. After Henry died in 1189, their son, Richard the Lionheart, became king. While he went on a crusade, Eleanor ruled England. Richard later died and another of Eleanor's sons, John, became king. He would sign an important document of freedom, called the Magna Carta.

Eleanor died in 1204. This remarkable woman had been queen of two countries and a powerful ruler of her own land, Aquitaine.



*Painting of the marriage
of Eleanor and Louis.*

Q
AND
A

What country is Aquitaine a part of?

Eleanor was queen of what two countries?

What were the names of two of Eleanor's sons?
