



French Dynasties

History Study Guide Version 3.1

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Dynasties are listed chronologically within each region. In this sheet, "Place" refers to the kingdom or polity with which the dynasty or house is primarily associated; "Period" refers to the approximate time during which the dynasty or house maintained active power; and "Founded" indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family.

Dynasty	Place, Period	Details
<u>Merovingian</u> dynasty	Franks, 400s-700s	founded by Clovis I; ceded power to the Mayors of the Palace, including Charles Martel, who passed on power to his son, Pepin the Short, beginning the Carolingian dynasty
<u>Carolingian</u> dynasty	Franks, 700s-900s	founded by Mayors of the Palace Charles Martel and his son Pepin the Short , the father of Charlemagne ; Charlemagne's grandsons, Lothair I, Louis the German, and Charles the Bald divided the Frankish empire in the 843 Treaty of Verdun ; preceded by the Merovingians; succeeded in France by the Capets
<u>Capetian</u> dynasty House of <u>Capet</u>	France, 900s-1800s	founded by Hugh Capet in 987; included Saint Louis (Louis IX); several Capetian kings were also Kings of Navarre; preceded by the Carolingians; main branch was succeeded in France by the Valois in the 1300s
House of <u>Valois</u> [val-WAH]	France, 1300s-1500s	cadet branch of the Capetians; opposed the Plantagenets in the Hundred Years' War ; founded by Philip VI; succeeded by the Bourbons
House of <u>Bourbon</u>	France, 1500s-1700s, 1800s	cadet branch of the Capetians; founded by Henry IV , who converted to Catholicism and is quoted as saying " Paris is well worth a mass, " though he also signed the Edict of Nantes , which granted tolerance to Protestants; Henry IV was a King of Navarre, and was assassinated by François Ravailac; Louis XVI was the last Bourbon king before the French Revolution , when he and his wife, Marie Antoinette, were beheaded; after Napoleon was exiled the second time, Louis XVIII, Charles X, and Louis-Philippe reigned in the Bourbon Restoration; preceded by the Valois; interrupted by Napoleon I; succeeded by Napoleon III