

French Dynasties and Ruling Houses Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

*Dynasties are listed chronologically. **Bolded terms** appear frequently in tossups.*

"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.

"Founded" indicates the establishment of the dynasty or house as a ruling power, and not as a family.

Dynasty	Place and 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 Ravaillac; 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