

JOANNA I OF CASTILE & ARAGON (JOANNA THE MAD)

MAD QUEEN OR VICTIM OF HER FAMILY?

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write the heading "JOANNA I OF CASTILE AND ARAGON".
2. Put a vertical line to divide the page.
3. Write "MAD QUEEN " on the left part and "VICTIM OF HER FAMILY" on the right part.
4. Read the pieces of information, decide on which side the information belongs, and write it.
5. When you have finished, write a CONCLUSION in which you decide if Joanna was a mad Queen or a victim of her family, or maybe both.

Joanna was the daughter of Isabella, Queen of Castile, and Ferdinand, King of Aragon. She was a beautiful, clever and educated girl. She spoke several languages and learnt music and dance.



After the death of two of his siblings and one nephew, Joanna became the heiress to her mother's kingdom of Castile.

Joanna moved from Castile to nowadays Belgium to marry Philip of Habsburg, Duke of Burgundy, and heir to the Habsburg Empire. They married on 20 October 1496. Joanna had an extreme passion for her husband. However, Philip had several mistresses and Joanna, was always suspicious and had violent rages. Not long after her marriage people started to refer to her as Joanna "The Mad".

Joanna wanted to bury her husband's body in Granada where her mother Isabella was buried. She travelled with Philip's corpse.

Joanna's marriage was important to her, but for her parents and husband, the marriage was just a political tool, she was between the pressures from her husband on one side and her parents on the other.

When Isabella died, Joanna and her husband were Queen and King of Castile. When Philip died too, she tried to exercise her royal authority and protect her children's rights.

Films and books have depicted Joanna as a woman who suffered a mental illness and was obsessed with her husband, alive or dead.

From 1507 through 1516, Ferdinand of Aragon exercised his authority over Joanna, she could not believe her father would betray her, but she ended up confined to a room in a fortress in Tordesillas since 1509 till her death in 1555.

When Ferdinand of Aragon died in 1516, Joanna's eldest son, Charles, assumed the titles of King of Castile, Leon, and Aragon in Brussels. Joanna was alive.

Joanna's husband, Philip, father, Ferdinand, and eldest son, Charles, controlled Joanna's life. She lost her kingdoms and power, while they ruled in her name.

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The main source of information for the text is : <http://cas.umn.edu/assets/pdf/Juana%20The%20Mad.pdf>

This worksheet was inspired by Mrs. Graham's "Henry VIII Star or Monster " worksheet on www.schoolhistory.co.uk