

## **“Portrait of Louis XIV” video transcription**

**We see the top half of a painting of the French King Louis XIV. In front of a large red and gold curtain, he stands in a three-quarter pose with his face turned towards the viewer. He wears a huge, curly, dark-brown wig, a lace collar, and a large, blue cloak decorated with lilies and stoat fur.**

[Narrator]

It only takes a few seconds to pose for a photo; but for a painting like this one it could take several days!

**The king sits at a dining table, surrounded by members of the court. He is being served a glass of wine, while a musician plays the mandolin. In the foreground, the painter Hyacinthe Rigaud is sketching out the king’s face on a little canvas mounted across from the table, making the most of this rare moment of relative stillness.**

[Narrator]

Do you suppose King Louis XIV gave up so much of his precious time? The king only posed for the time it took to paint his face (two sessions).

**Hyacinthe Rigaud continues to work in the foreground but now the king is sat on a gold armchair below a heavy curtain. The king yawns out of boredom. A waiter brings him a glass of wine on a tray.**

[Waiter, whispering]

Sire.

**The king drinks and starts reading a letter. The work is almost complete but the painter seems unconvinced.**

**The painted face is removed and sewn onto a larger canvas.**

[Narrator]

Hyacinthe Rigaud had this simple portrait sewn onto a large canvas, then he asked a model to pose wearing the king's clothes.

**In the painter’s workshop, the large canvas is set up. The outlines have already been traced and the completed face has been sewn on. Behind the easel, a sitter poses in the scene with the draped curtains.**

[Narrator]

He finished the painting with the help of his studio pupils.

**We see the real painting again, and a close up of the king’s face.**

[Narrator]

It's a funny portrait: you can see that the king has the face of a 63 year-old...

**Then we see the lower part, with the long, muscly legs in white tights.**

[Narrator]

but in his coronation outfit he has the legs of a 20 year-old!