

# A Little Chaos

**1 Watch the video and fill in each blank with one word.**



**Le Notre:** Madame de Barra – Monsieur Sualem and De Ville. They are building the Marly (1) ..... and an aqueduct from there to Versailles, which we hope will alleviate the severe water shortage here.

**Monsieur Sualem and De Ville:** Madame.

**Madame de Barra:** Gentlemen.

**Le Notre:** Madame de Barra will be constructing the Rockwork Grove here at Versailles. Water, or rather the (2) ..... of it, will be a pressing concern.

**Sualem:** Master, the King’s (3) ..... are already .....

**Le Notre:** Are vast and ever changing and our (4) ..... task is to meet them.

**De Ville:** But, with respect, no man can meet infinite (5) .....

**Le Notre:** The King’s commands are not infinite, De Ville, they are the King’s command.

**De Ville:** Well, quite so, but the aqueduct can only do so much.

**Sualem:** When we began (6) ..... I was under the impression that ...

**Le Notre:** The past is history. Our task is to suppress (7) ..... to our will, according to the present plans.

**Sualem:** But, Monsieur, the (8) ..... being spent...

**Le Notre:** The aqueduct will carry sufficient water to the gardens of Versailles because it must. That is your brief. – Madame ? - It is essentially your (9) ..... number six in your submission, I believe. This part is entirely original to myself. You see? It fits onto this end of your plan. Now you can see the extent of the (10) .....

**Madame de Barra:** Yes. It’s a large, flat area.

**2 Watch the film clip with the subtitles to check your answers to the gap-filling exercise.**



# The Royal Gardens of Versailles



The enchanting **Gardens of Versailles** were founded by the French King Louis XIII in the year 1632. However, many say that the real founder was his son, Louis XIV who, in 1661, **appointed** the best architects, painters and landscape designers to work on what would become his life project: the “Chateau de Versailles” and its magnificent gardens. The layout of the gardens required enormous work. Vast amount of earth had to **be shifted to layout** the flower beds, the *Orangerie*, the fountains and the Canal, where previously only woods, grasslands and marshes were. The earth was transported in **wheelbarrows**, the trees were transported by **cart** from all the provinces of France and thousands of men took part in this vast enterprise. The gardens are 800 hectares large. The majority of the land is covered by finely-landscaped woodland areas and several wonderful gardens in French style. The Chateau and the gardens were inscribed on the UNESCO World **Heritage** list in 1979 and are considered one of the icons of France.



to appoint: *nominare*  
 cart: *carro*  
 heritage: *eredità*

to lay-out: *predisporre*  
 to shift: *spostare*  
 wheelbarrow: *carricola*