Charlemagne

King of the Franks



1. Charlemagne, also known as Karl or Charles the Great he was King of the Franks.
2. [**Born**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+born&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgwoHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWWHaylX5Ban5BTiqQKirOz7NKyi_KUzD1tSpyqJzdwnL6hKtOt2_PieIUALWRualBAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CIYBEOgTKAAwDg)**:**[Francia](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=francia&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgz4HnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ5hVbFqWoyWWnWylX5CaX5CTCqSKivPzrJLyi_LcQ5r8dhnlat96pxg7tbHMMv9x6DIApT6L2kwAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CIcBEJsTKAEwDg)
3. [**Died**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+died&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgy4HnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWfHaylX5Ban5BTqp-SmpyamJxakp8QWpRcX6eVUpmaorzpAN60_n_7ldcdmZLgIyhfIzifW8AeS8XZ0oAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CIoBEOgTKAAwDw)**:** 814 AD, [Aachen, Germany](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=aachen&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxkHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISO4hVmJWiJZ-dbKVfkJpfkJOqn5KanJpYnJoSX5BaVJyfZ5WSmZpywZY9qOrlN5ebOU_0Vzo8ebJBWkUfAJJBvEJTAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CIsBEJsTKAEwDw)
4. [**Buried**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+buried&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgz4HnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWYnaylX5Ban5BTqp-SmpyamJxakp8QWpRcX6eVVJpUWZqysN9gXsfykoejDx50aFsd5yKe6dFGAAAS0_CTAAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CI4BEOgTKAAwEA)**:**January 28, 814 AD, [Aachen Cathedral, Aachen, Germany](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=aachen+cathedral&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxUHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ5iVllJYoKWYnWylX5CaX5CTqp-SmpyaWJyaEl-QWlScn2eVVFqUmZoScy69Y8IGX2czKcvLVbXCRZstFm4BALZzYc9XAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CI8BEJsTKAEwEA)
5. [**Spouse**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+spouse&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxoHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWRHaylX5Ban5BTiqQKirOz7MqLsgvLU5V_sEzXXKCvELU4j_GaStttrmzG98EAHIxCm1DAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJIBEOgTKAAwEQ)**:**[Luitgard](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=luitgard&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgyEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ4hlZGKaUqAlkZ1spV-Qml-Qkwqkiorz86yKC_JLi1NXvDllnnO9x2_bZvYb57rKNuW0LLUEAFT7KfpOAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJMBEJsTKAEwEQ) (m. 794 AD–800 AD)
6. [**Children**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+children&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgwYHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWVHaylX5Ban5BTiqQKirOz7NKzsjMSSlKzXt4QSV1b-9JyYhlN49ZTbwstr5WaSoAbSkKrEUAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJYBEOgTKAAwEg)**:**[Louis the Pious](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=louis+the+pious&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISmGWSnR2vJZWdbKVfkJpfkJMKpIqK8_OskjMyc1KKUvNc9mdIZKtJTDVu9H-pFxH9I5z1sDkA1yRD208AAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJcBEJsTKAEwEg), [Pepin the Hunchback](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=pepin+the+hunchback&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgzEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ4hlnFxcWaUllZ1spV-Qml-Qkwqkiorz86ySMzJzUopS8wL4BDezz1itc_2rxsY-scefrZN6YwGqqCb0UAAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJgBEJsTKAIwEg), [Pepin of Italy](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=pepin+of+italy&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgzEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ4hlYmyZZagllZ1spV-Qml-Qkwqkiorz86ySMzJzUopS86K-qaf8qdDnfJn_cnHa_IOsDaaTbwIAe1GXyFAAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJkBEJsTKAMwEg), He had 18 children
7. [**Parents**](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=charlemagne+parents&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgzoHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrKWZHaylX5Ban5BTiqQKirOz7MqSCxKzSspljVSnnZ0wrf1hzbo1qfM6jTYzzJrLQDN7kTZRAAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJwBEOgTKAAwEw)**:**[Bertrada of Laon](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=bertrada+of+laon&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ4hllJRdlaUlmZ1spV-Qml-Qkwqkiorz86wKEotS80qKeR9yPDXZ99Hr9MG0FdUHH224VFTLCgCYjOMQTwAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJ0BEJsTKAEwEw), [Pepin the Short](https://www.google.com.au/search?rlz=1C1CHMO_enAU515AU515&espv=2&biw=1242&bih=577&q=pepin+the+short&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAGOovnz8BQMDgxEHnxCHfq6-gWFuRrISJ4hlVlKWZ6ElmZ1spV-Qml-Qkwqkiorz86wKEotS80qK1V8bCQhy3n4h7BzOsDFWNHThp5ktAPAmbOpPAAAA&sa=X&ei=iPDqVOWDNOW3mwWs_IKwBw&ved=0CJ4BEJsTKAIwEw)

Charlemagne became king of the Franks, a Germanic tribe in present-day Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Western Germany. When he died in 814, Charlemagne’s empire encompassed much of Western Europe.

He embarked on a mission to unite all Germanic peoples into one kingdom, and convert his subjects to Christianity, in doing so he ensured the survival of Christianity in the West.

A skilled military strategist, he spent much of his reign engaged in warfare in order to accomplish his goals.

In 800, Pope Leo III (750-816) crowned Charlemagne emperor of the Romans.

Today, Charlemagne is referred to by some as the father of Europe.

He promoted education and encouraged the Carolingian Renaissance, a period of renewed emphasis on scholarship and culture.

He instituted economic and religious reforms. He encouraged the Carolingian Renaissance, a cultural and intellectual revival in Europe.

Carolingian miniscule, a standardized form of writing that later became a basis for modern European printed alphabets.

Charlemagne ruled from a number of cities and palaces, but spent significant time in Aachen. His palace there included a school, for which he recruited the best teachers in the land.

In 813, Charlemagne crowned his son Louis the Pious (778-840), king of Aquitaine, as co-emperor. Louis became sole emperor when Charlemagne died in January 814, ending his reign of more than four decades.

Charlemagne was buried at the cathedral in Aachen. In the ensuing decades, his empire was divided up among his heirs, and by the late 800s, it had dissolved.

<http://www.history.com/topics/charlemagne>

**The Biographer**

The record of Charlemagne's personal attributes and achievements is the *Vita Caroli Magni,* the first medieval biography, written by Einhard between 817 and 836. This biography is largely a firsthand account, since Einhard was a member of the palace school during Charlemagne's reign and was his close associate.

**Appearance**

The most striking feature about Charlemagne was his immense size in comparison to the average man of his day. Einhard believed him to be seven times the length of a foot, but with the opening of his tomb in 1861 scholars discovered that his actual height was 6 feet 3 1/2 inches. He was well built and admirably proportioned, except for his rather short thick neck and a protruding paunch. He took frequent exercise on horseback and enjoyed excellent health for most of his life. Einhard says that "his eyes [were] very large and animated, nose a little long, hair fair, and face laughing and merry."

**Character**

Toward his friends Charlemagne was jovial, and he particularly enjoyed the company of others. Yet toward his enemies he was a stern and often cruel warrior to be feared for his strength and ability. Although primarily a man of action, he had great admiration for learning and "was such a master of Latin that he could speak it as well as his native tongue." He studied Greek and the liberal arts and thus combined to some extent the personality of a warrior and a scholar. <https://secure.adppayroll.com.au/index.php>