Marie Antoinette was born on November 2, 1755, in Vienna, Austria. She was the youngest daughter of Empress Maria Theresa and Emperor Francis I, making her an archduchess of Austria.

At the age of 14, Marie Antoinette was married off to Louis-Auguste, the future King Louis XVI of France, as part of a political alliance between the Austrian and French monarchies. This marriage was arranged to strengthen the ties between the two countries.

Marie Antoinette's extravagant lifestyle and reputation for indulgence contributed to her unfavorable image among the French people. She was known for her lavish spending, opulent parties, and love for fashion, earning her the nickname "Madame Déficit."

Marie Antoinette's marriage to Louis XVI faced challenges, as the couple initially struggled to consummate their marriage and produce an heir. This fueled speculation and gossip, which further tarnished her reputation.

Despite her initial unpopularity, Marie Antoinette engaged in charitable activities and patronized the arts. She supported various cultural projects and artists, including commissioning the construction of the Petit Trianon, a small palace and garden retreat on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles.

Marie Antoinette's image and actions became heavily associated with the political and economic crises of France. She was often blamed for the country's financial troubles, although she had limited influence over political affairs.

The famous quote, "Let them eat cake," is commonly attributed to Marie Antoinette, although there is no concrete evidence that she ever said it. The quote became a symbol of her perceived indifference to the plight of the French people during a time of widespread poverty and food shortages.

During the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette and her family were held under house arrest in the Tuileries Palace in Paris. They were later imprisoned in the Temple Tower before being separated and subjected to harsh conditions.

Following a highly controversial trial, Marie Antoinette was convicted of treason and executed by guillotine on October 16, 1793, at the age of 37. Her death marked the end of the Bourbon monarchy in France.

Despite the negative portrayal she received during her lifetime and in the years following her death, Marie Antoinette has been the subject of renewed interest and reevaluation. Some historians argue that she was a scapegoat for the problems of the monarchy and that she displayed resilience and strength during her final days. Her story continues to captivate and inspire artistic interpretations, including the notable film "Marie Antoinette" directed by Sofia Coppola.