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# The Guillotine French Terror

## History of the Guillotine

Originally the guillotine was called “Louissette” after its creator or designer, Dr. Antoine Louis. But that name didn’t stick because it got named after the man who originally proposed it, Dr. Joseph Guillotin.

Before the guillotine, people in France who were sentenced to death were executed in horrible ways. Drawn and quartered or hung by a rope and pulled apart by horse were some of the terrible ways.

So the guillotine was proposed as a more humane way to put people to death.

The guillotine remained the official form of French execution until 1931, when the death penalty was abolished in France.



## Quick Facts

- ⇒ The machine weighed around 1300 pounds or about the weight of a small car.
- ⇒ The guillotine metal blade weighed 88 pounds.
- ⇒ The height of the guillotine was around 14 feet tall or about the top of a basketball goal.
- ⇒ The falling blade had a rate of speed of about 21 feet/second, faster than a fastball thrown in a baseball game.
- ⇒ The beheading took 2/100 of a second, quicker than you blink.
- ⇒ The time for the guillotine blade to fall down to the victim took 1/70 of a second, quicker than you can say guillotine.



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