The French Revolution Packet

Key Vocabulary

aristocracy - upper class usually made up of nobility

**assembly - a legislative body; the gathering of a political or social group**

bourgeoisie - the middle class in a society

**class - a group sharing the same economic or social status**

courtiers - those in attendance at a royal court, often to entertain or bring concerns to a monarchy

**despotism** **- a system of government in which the ruler has unlimited power**

grandiose - impressive because of uncommon largeness, scope, effect or splendor

**hierarchy** - **the classification of a group of people according to ability or to economic, social, or professional standing**

incorruptible - incapable of being bribed or morally corrupted

**ominous** **- having a menacing, alarming character foreshadowing evil or disaster**

reason - the power of comprehending, inferring, or thinking especially in orderly rational ways

**sans-roulettes** **- an extreme radical republican in France at the time of the Revolution**

Viewing Chart (Outline of the Video)

***From Monarchy to Revolution***

• King Louis XVI inherited the French throne in 1774

• France was in financial crisis; as taxes rise, a huge

percentage of the population was suffering from

starvation

• At a meeting of the Estates-General in 1789, the Third

Estate revolts and forms the National Assembly

• With the “Tennis Court Oaths” the Third Estate

demanded the formation of a Constitutional Monarchy

to provide them with more political representation

***The French Revolution in Action***

• Leaders of the Third Estate outlined their desire for basic

human rights with the “Declaration of the Rights of Man

and of the Citizen” in 1789

• Maximillian Robespierre assumed a major leadership

role in the French Revolution

• Facing repression from the crown, hundreds of French citizens destroyed the Bastille in July of 1789

• The more radical faction of the Revolution, known as the

Jacobins, assumed power

• Many French commoners took to the streets to demand

change; the monarchs tried to escape but were driven

back to Paris in 1791 to face trial

***From Revolution to “Reign of Terror”***

• Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were both executed in

1793 as the Revolution continued

• Robespierre formed the Committee of Public Safety to

try to restore order in the streets as chaos ruled

• The radical faction within the Revolution seized control

and tens of thousands of French were executed by

guillotine

• In 1799 the revolutionary phase was officially over as

Napoleon seized power

Viewing Guide

1. The French Revolution is the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ event in Western History.
2. Did Louis the XVI (16th) have good qualities for a king? Explain
3. The marriage of Louis and Marie Antoinette unites what to countries?
4. What were the causes of the poverty in France during this time?
5. The age of ideas is called The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Who does it say not to trust?
6. Who was already fighting a war based on Enlightenment ideas?
7. What was Marie Antoinette’s obsession?
8. What was the job of the queen?
9. Who paid most of the taxes after Louis XVI’s financial reforms?
10. Under Louis’s financial reforms, what happened to the cost of bread?
11. 1789 was the first time the Estates General met in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years
12. The Third Estate made up \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ percent of the population.
13. What did Robespeirre call for the Nobility and Clergy do?
14. Under the Tennis Court Oath, the men agreed to keep meeting until what was agreed upon?
15. The new assembly of the people is called the new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
16. What was the date of the raid on the Bastille? What happened to the governor of the Bastille?
17. Why did the people spend so much time and effort destroying the Bastille?
18. What did the ***Declaration of the Rights of Man*** say?
19. What was Marat’s answer to France’s problems?
20. How many people marched to Versailles? What did they want?
21. What did Marie Antoinette NOT say?
22. What was the Guillotine’s nickname?
23. What country did France declare war on? Why?
24. What happened on Aug 10, 1792?
25. What did the *sans-culottes* go without to represent rejection of aristocratic tradition?
26. What does Georges Danton’s words inspire many revolutionaries to do?
27. On January 21, 1793, who fell victim to the guillotine?
28. How many heads does Marat call for?
29. What does Charlotte Corday do?
30. What is Marie Antoinette’s final accusation?
31. Why would other nations in Europe want to defeat the revolution?
32. Describe the “Reign of Terror.”
33. What was the Committee for Public Safety?
34. A new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was created.
35. Who led a French victory against the British at Toulon?
36. Robespierre wanted to use more terror to form a Republic of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
37. How many people were executed each month during the Great Terror?
38. What was the only thing that would end the terror?
39. How long after Robespierre’s death until power once again was consolidated in the hands of Napoleon?
40. “How much \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is justified in achieving a better \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”

Anatomy of a Revolution

**Directions:** For each of the following points, write the event that corresponds to it from the French Revolution (From *Anatomy of Revolution* by Crane Brinton

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | On the eve of revolution, the government has failed to meet the needs of the people, has denied political power to new and powerful social or economic groups, and has lost the support of the intellectuals. |  |
| 2 | The revolution begins with a dramatic act that demonstrates the inability of the government to control the course of events. |  |
| 3 | The moderates in the revolutionary movement seize power and attempt a program of moderate reform. |  |
| 4 | The moderate reform program arouses opposition and violence—by counter-revolutionary forces within the country and by fearful foreign countries. |  |
| 5 | To preserve the revolution in this “crisis stage”, the extremists of the revolutionary movement seize control and employ force and terror against enemies of the revolution. |  |
| 6 | With the crisis surmounted and the public sick of the bloodletting, the terror comes to an end. |  |
| 7 | In the ensuing period of political instability, a powerful leader emerges, seizes power, and rules as a dictator. |  |
| 88 | The public acceptance of the dictator is based on the belief that he will preserve some of the gains of the revolution while at the same time providing political stability and social cohesion. |  |

French Revolution Video Review: Fill in the Blank

At the seat of the French monarchy in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an alliance between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_was created

as King Louis XVI married Marie Antoinette. The king had inherited a financial crisis as France had sent millions of dollars and resources overseas to support the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Poverty and malnourishment devastated the nation as the population in France continued to increase. Unrest was brewing as King Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates-General to be held in May of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Meanwhile, a brilliant orator who will later become a leader of the French Revolution named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sharpened his debating and political skills.

There were three major social groups in France, referred to as “estates.” The three estates were the nobility, the clergy, and the

common people known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This estate comprised over 95% of the French population. A political and philosophical awakening spearheaded by thinkers such as Voltaire and Rousseau inspired the members of the Third Estate. This transformation, known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, created rising expectations among the French people at the same time that malnourishment and harsh taxes turned them against an inept crown. Politically inspired, the Third Estate demanded popular representation, forming a political body known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They demanded that France become a Constitutional Monarchy in which the Third Estate would be more fairly represented politically.

After declaring their wishes to reorganize the French government in the “Tennis Court Oaths,” the Third Estate was met with

violent repression. Though he recognized the need to compromise politically, Louis XVI soon started a campaign to re-establish power

and put an end to the Revolution. The king’s repression incensed the French people, and hundreds of protestors stormed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on July 14, \_\_\_\_\_\_. Later that summer, the National Assembly outlined a basic human rights platform in a document written by the Marquis de Lafayette entitled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Furious at the monarchy, a group of Parisian women marched to Versailles and demanded that the king and queen return to Paris.

The Revolution continued over the next few years, as the king ordered repressive measures against protestors and as factions emerged among the Third Estate. In 1791, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette attempted to flee Paris but were recaptured and, in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Louis XVI was executed by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Robespierre, who had been a major leader in the Revolution, responded to the chaos in France by handing over power to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the goal of returning order. This attempt spiraled out of control as thousands of people suspected to be traitors of the Revolution were executed by guillotine. This chapter of the Revolution is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Toward the end of the Revolution, in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Robespierre himself was put to death by guillotine and a more moderate group assumed a leadership role. This transfer from radicalism to a more moderate form of government is known as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Overall, the Revolution had transformed France. The era of divine right was over, the monarchy had been eliminated, and basic standards of human rights were established. The next phase of French history started shortly thereafter,

as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took over through a coup in 1799 to become Emperor of France.

Activities

**Directions**: The first activity is required. You must also CHOOSE ONE of the other listed activities to complete.

**REQUIRED**

1. Write a half page giving your opinion on the French Revolution. Was it worth the bloodshed? Was it a good cause? Be sure that you have a topic/thesis sentence (“I believe that the French Revolution was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”) and then prove it with specific events that occurred during the French Revolution.

**CHOOSE ONE**

1. Pretend that you are a reporter sent to cover raid of the Bastille. In a short newspaper article of describe the events. You can use details from your textbook, the movie, the books provided in class, or using the Internet. You may also choose to write an article from the first-person perspective as if you were a witness of or participant in the events at the Bastille.
2. Marie Antoinette is often called a “tragic queen.” She was often disregarded by her people and had the reputation for being an insensitive queen in her love for materialistic goods while so many French people were starving. Read the short biography of her, the letter she wrote to her mother, and listen to the podcast about her and form your own opinion. Write a speech from someone living in France either in support or in opposition to her.
3. Pretend that you are the host of a talk show (think Oprah). Write a script interview in which you discuss with Robespierre his reign and his reasons for doing so.
4. Read the excerpt from A Tale of Two Cities. As you read, create a two-column chart to contrast the nobles and the commoners. Look for clues that suggest Dickens’s attitude toward each group. When you finish, complete both activities 2 and 3 at the end of the excerpt (the narrative paragraph and the sympathy card).
5. There were many grievances among the French people which led them to revolt. This program discusses many of the reasons the French were so frustrated with the monarchy and why the momentum for the French Revolution gathered steam in the late 1780s. Keeping in mind some of these reasons, pretend that you are a member of the Third Estate who has gone to Versailles to protest the monarchy. On a piece of construction paper, make a protest sign against the French government. You can decorate your poster or sign with images or flags from the French Revolution that you find on the Internet or with pictures you draw yourself. Include on the back of your poster or sign additional information such as the occupation, age, and basic biography of your intended member of the Third Estate.