

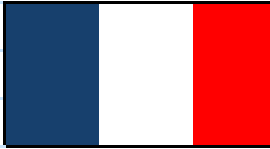
The French Revolution (1789-1799)

Headings	Notes															
THE CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France's absolute monarchy – France was still ruled by the old feudal system (ancien régime) in the late eighteenth century with Louis XVI as the absolute monarch (he had total control over the country, claiming he had a divine right to rule). Louis' wife, Marie Antoinette, was Austrian and unpopular with the French people as they lived a very extravagant lifestyle at a time when the French economy was poor. • The Enlightenment was the movement of thinkers who valued science and reason above faith or authority as the basis for society in the eighteenth century. France was particularly engaged in the movement with writers such as Voltaire, Rousseau and Montesquieu. Their criticisms of the ancien regime and Louis' absolute monarchy were widely read throughout France, leading to many challenging the idea that kings had a divine right to rule. • Social divisions in France – French society was split into 'Three Estates'. 															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>First Estate</th> <th>Second Estate</th> <th>Third Estate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clergy (priests and bishops)</td> <td>Nobility (wealthy landowners who controlled the government and army)</td> <td>The common people (everyone from well-off doctors, lawyers, teachers and merchants to poor peasants and labourers)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approx. 100,000 people</td> <td>Approx. 400,000 people</td> <td>Approx. 25 million people</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Did not pay taxes</td> <td>Did not pay taxes</td> <td>Paid taxes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Owned 10% of the land</td> <td>Owned 60% of the land</td> <td>Many peasants still lived under feudal law</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	First Estate	Second Estate	Third Estate	Clergy (priests and bishops)	Nobility (wealthy landowners who controlled the government and army)	The common people (everyone from well-off doctors, lawyers, teachers and merchants to poor peasants and labourers)	Approx. 100,000 people	Approx. 400,000 people	Approx. 25 million people	Did not pay taxes	Did not pay taxes	Paid taxes	Owned 10% of the land	Owned 60% of the land	Many peasants still lived under feudal law
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	Owned 10% of the land	Owned 60% of the land	Many peasants still lived under feudal law													
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of the American Revolution – the French people were inspired by the events of the American revolution but the country's economy had been bankrupted by its military support during the War of Independence. By the late 1780s, the government's finances were in crisis which led to Louis XVI calling the first Estates General in 175 years. 															
Keywords	Summary															
Absolute monarch	France was still ruled by the old feudal system (ancien régime) at the end of the 18th century															
Ancien régime	with Louis XVI as absolute monarch . Louis's wife Marie Antoinette was Austrian and unpopular															
Louis XVI	with the French as they lived a very extravagant lifestyle at a time when the French economy was															
Marie Antionette	poor. The Enlightenment and its criticism of the old regime and the absolute monarchy were															
The Enlightenment	widely read throughout France and other European countries, leading many to begin challenging															
First Estate	the idea that kings had a divine right to rule. By the late 1780s, government finances were in															
Second Estate	crisis, leading Louis XVI to convene the first Estates General in 175 years where the First Estate															
Third Estate	(clergy), Second Estate (Nobles) and Third Estate (Common people) would vote on matters of															
Estates General	the state.															

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THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Estates General was a French parliament made up of three parts, each representing the three Estates. On the 5th May 1789, the Estates General met at Versailles but could not agree on how voting should proceed. • The First and Second Estates wanted one vote for each estate so they could combine and outvote the Third Estate by two to one. • The Third Estate wanted one vote per member so that they could outvote the other two estates 621 votes to 593. • The Third Estate declared that they represented the French people and named themselves the National Assembly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They met on the Versailles tennis courts after they were locked out of their meeting room by the other two Estates where they swore the Tennis Court Oath; they would stay until a constitution for France was drawn up. • The Storming of the Bastille – tensions continued to rise in Paris during the summer of 1789 due to rising food prices and shortages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The royal family were very much disengaged with the struggles of their people as seen when Marie Antionette declared “Let them eat cake” as she did not understand the people could not afford cake no more than they could afford bread. • The citizens of Paris feared the King would use the army to shut down the National Assembly so they formed their own militia, the National Guard, in response. • On the 14th July 1789, a large, angry crowd of sans-culottes (urban workers who supported the Revolution) attacked the Bastille Prison in Paris, stealing weapons and ammunitions as well as killing all active duty guards and beating the prison governor to death. The attack on the Bastille would become a symbol of the crushing of the old system and is still celebrated as Bastille Day.
Keywords	Summary
Estates General	The Estates General met in Versailles but no agreement could be made in regards to how the voting should work. In protest, the Third Estate upon declaring themselves the National
National Assembly	Assembly met on the Versailles tennis court where they swore the Tennis Court Oath ; they
Tennis Court Oath	would stay until a constitution for France was drawn up. The royal family were disengaged with
The Storming of the Bastille	the sufferings of the French people with Marie Antoinette showing this through her comment, “ Let
“Let them eat cake”	them eat cake ”. This comment was followed by the Storming of the Bastille when the Parisian
Militia	sans-culottes attacked the Bastille Prison in Paris on the 14 th July 1789, creating a symbol of the
National Guard	crushing of the old system. It is still celebrated as Bastille Day each year. The Parisian citizens
Sans-culottes	formed their own militia , the National Guard , in response to fears the King would fight them.
Bastille Day	

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Headings	Notes
REVOLUTION IN FRANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reforms of the National Assembly – The middle class, peasants and labourers around France began to attack the houses of nobles' and bishops'. • The National Assembly passed reforms such as abolishing the feudal system and tithes paid to the Church. • The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was passed in August 1789 which declared all men are born free and equal. This document would lead to the modern document, United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Symbols of the revolution included the slogan 'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity' as well as a new tricolour flag for France. This flag had the blue and red representing the colours of Paris on either side of the white of the royal family. This was to symbolise the people's power and dominance over royalty.  • The Flight to Varennes – in June 1791, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette escaped Paris while disguised as servants but were caught at the town of Varennes and returned to Paris. • War with Austria – The National Assembly declared war on Austria in April 1792. The Austrians were supported by the Prussians, winning several early victories over the ill-prepared French army. These defeats led to the sans-culottes suspecting King Louis of helping enemies of France. They stormed the Tuileries Palace where the royal family had been placed under house arrest and imprisoned them. • The First French Republic – huge numbers joined the French army to protect the country from those they believed wanted to stop the Revolution, helping the army defeat these enemies. The new National Convention declared France a republic (government without a king where the people are sovereign). During the celebrations, mobs broke into Parisian prisons where they executed over 1,000 'enemies of the revolution' in the September Massacres. • The end of the French Monarchy – Louis XVI was tried by the Convention and found guilty of treason for which he was executed at the guillotine in January 1793. Nine months later, Marie Antoinette was also executed. Britain, Spain and the Netherlands responded by declaring war on France.
Keywords	Summary
Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen	The National Assembly made various reforms such as abolishing the feudal system and tithes.
'Liberty, Equality and Fraternity'	They passed the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen which proclaimed that all men are born equal and free. The slogan of the revolution became ' Liberty, Equality and
Flight to Varennes	Fraternity '. The royal family tried to flee (The Flight to Varennes) but were captured & returned to Paris. As war was declared on Austria, the sans-culottes descended on the Tuileries Palace
Tuileries Palace	to arrest the King for suspected treason. The National Convention announced the First French
First French Republic	Republic . The September Massacres saw over 1, 000 ' enemies of the revolution ' executed.
National Convention	Louis XVI was executed by the guillotine in January 1793, marking the end of the monarchy.
September Massacres	
Guillotine	

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Headings	Notes
THE REIGN OF TERROR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794) was a leading member of the Jacobins (a radical French political group) and very popular with the Paris sans-culottes. He became president of the Committee of Public Safety which was founded after the declarations of war on France. • The Committee assumed absolute power and launched the Reign of Terror. Anybody who was even suspected of betraying the Revolution was punished under the Law of Suspects. Such punishments included the crushing of a rebellion in the Vendée which resulted in the deaths of nearly 250,000 people. There was also a mass enlistment into the French army to fight the combined armies that had declared war on the country. • By June 1794, people expected the Reign of Terror to end. Robespierre, instead, intensified it. He went as far to target members of the National Convention, turning the one loyal sans-culottes against him. • On the 27th July 1794, Robespierre was arrested, tried and executed along with his supporters • The end of the French Revolution was marked by the formation of The Directory, a more moderate government in 1795.
THE RESULTS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Directory was overthrown in 1799 by Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) who would later declare himself Emperor of France in 1804. • The revolution's ideas and slogan of 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' spread to other European countries as people began to call for better democracy and the abolishment of monarchies. • All over Europe, the power of the nobility was reduced dramatically as the middle class gained more and more political power. • The ideas of the French Revolution and the American Revolution, inspired some Irishmen to fight for the liberty of Ireland which resulted in the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion. • The French Rebellion marked the idea of nationalism ('the Birth of a Nation') as more and more people desired to rule their own country by sovereign, democratic means rather than being ruled by imperial powers. • The metric system of weights and measurements (meters and kilos) and the decimalisation of currency were invented and are still used to this day in all but three countries around the world.
Keywords	Summary
Maximilien Robespierre	Maximilien Robespierre , a leading member of the political group, the Jacobins would come to power in France when he was elected as president of the Committee of Public Safety . They
Jacobins	launched the Reign of Terror , punishing anyone suspected of betraying the Revolution.
Committee of Public Safety	Robespierre was overthrown and executed in 1794 as the French Revolution came to its end. He
Reign of Terror	was replaced by a more moderate government, The Directory in 1795. The Directory itself was
Napoleon Bonaparte	overthrown by Napoleon Bonaparte who would later declare himself Emperor of France . The
1798 Irish Rebellion	French Revolution would inspire a call for better democracy, the reduction of the power of nobility
Nationalism	across Europe, the 1798 Irish Rebellion , the rise of nationalism and the metric system .
Metric System	

The French Revolution

Keywords	Definition
Absolute monarch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A political system in which the king or queen has sole power to decide the laws without the restriction of a government or constitution.
Ancien Régime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The political system in France before the 1789 Revolution.
Bastille	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A medieval fortress in Paris that was used as a prison for enemies of the king.
Bourgeoisie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The middle class or wealthier members of the Third Estate.
Committee of Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of twelve men selected by the National Convention in 1793 to govern France. It was dominated by Maximilien Robespierre.
Corvée	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peasants of the Third Estate were required to provide unpaid labour instead of tax payments.
Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined basic rights that people were entitled to, e.g. freedom of religion and freedom of speech.
Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'rule by the people'; a form of government where the people decide how the country is run and who will represent them.
Émigré	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A noble who fled France during the Revolution.
Jacobins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of politicians with extreme ideas who supported the Revolution.
Liberté, Égalité et Fraternité	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular slogan during the French Revolution that promoted the idea that people should be free, treated equally and treat one another like brothers and sisters.
Reign of Terror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period from 1793 to 1794 of harsh and violent measures that saw the execution of 16,000 counter-revolutionaries by the Committee of Public Safety.
Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A country where the people elect their leaders in free and fair elections. The head of state is an elected president rather than a king or queen.
Revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rapid and significant change in society, politics, technology or the economy.
Sans-culottes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people of Paris who supported the Revolution. It translates as 'without knee-length trousers' as they wore long trousers instead of the expensive silk breeches and stockings worn by the rich.
Tennis Court Oath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A solemn promise made by members of the National Assembly never to separate until a written constitution was created for France.
The Enlightenment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period from the late 1600s to the early 1800s when writers and thinkers questioned traditional ideas such as the divine right of kings. Also known as the Age of Reason.
The Estates General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assembly called by the king and made up of representatives from each of the three estates.
The Three Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three social groups that existed in France before the Revolution: the First Estate (Clergy), the Second Estate (Nobles) and the Third Estate (Commoners).