

Summary**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****a) Reasons of the French revolution**

- a. Enlightened political thought: Montesquieu's division of powers, Rousseau's national sovereignty.
- b. The independence of the United States.
- c. Social structure: tension between the privileged social sectors and the third estate:
 - Peasants had to pay high rents and taxes although most were on the verge of famine.
 - The bourgeois could not participate in governmental affairs in spite of their economic position and influence.
- c. Economic crisis:
 - New levies had to be collected because of the colonial wars and the support of the American independence.
 - Bad harvests and famines.
 - The king had to call the Estates General to pass new taxes.

b) The Revolution

1. The National Assembly (1789-1791)
 - May 1789 Louis XVI summoned the Estates General at Versailles.
 - The third estate seized the opportunity and asked for a social and political reform.
 - The king refused to accept and closed the access.
 - June 1789 the third estate met in an indoor tennis room (jeu de paume) and declared themselves the National Assembly.
 - The tennis court oath: not to disband until France had a Constitution.
 - The political revolution was supported by popular movements:
 - 14 July 1789 the crowd took the Bastille;
 - peasants burned palaces of aristocrats and killed them (la grande peur).
 - In August, the National Assembly began its program of social and political reform:
 - Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen;
 - the feudal system was abolished;
 - 1791 a new Constitution was promulgated.
2. The constitutional monarchy and the war
 - The moderate Girondins dominated the situation: they wanted a compromise with the king
 - The properties of the Church were confiscated and sold at auction.
 - The Constitution of 1791 was moderate and conciliatory.
 - The king conspired against the regime; he fled from the Tuileries Palace in Paris.
 - With the flight to Varennes (June 1791), the king lost the trust of his people.
 - Austrian and Prussian troops invaded France to restore the ancien régime.
 - September 1792 France became a Republic.

3. The Convention (1792-1795)

- The Convention was the third Assembly elected when France was suffering a foreign invasion.
- It was a radical turn of the Revolution.
- Mass conscription provided an army to defend the revolution.
- Massive use of the guillotine against political suspects.
- 1793 king Louis and his wife were put to death.
- 1793 new Constitution.
- Social laws to improve the conditions of life the Law of Maximum.
- With Maximilien Robespierre, leader of the Jacobins (the radical party) in the Convention, with the support of the sans culottes, revolutionary massacres reached their peak.
- Jacobins sought to change France completely.
- The Convention saved the Republic from its internal and external enemies.
- The reign of Terror: executive and military powers given to committees.
- There was counter-revolution in the Vendée.
- Military victories expanded the Revolution over new countries.
- 1794 execution of Robespierre.

4. The Directory (1795-1799)

- Moderate phase, under the influence of conservative bourgeois called the Directory.
- Military victories paved the political way for generals.
- 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew the Directory after a *coup d'État* and imposed a new constitution and a new political system, the Consulate.

c) Consequences of the French Revolution

- Revolutionary ideas spread throughout Europe.
- The French military success favoured the creation of revolutionary Republics under French influence.
- The Austrian Low Countries and the Rhineland were put under the direct rule of France.
- The imperial conquests of Napoleon enlarged the influence of the revolutionary ideas.

COOPERATIVE WORK: Complete with the words and expressions given (3/4 students)**a) Reasons of the French revolution**

- a) _____ political thought: Montesquieu's division of powers, Rousseau's national sovereignty.
- b) The _____ of the United States.
- c) Social structure: tension between the _____ social sectors and the third estate:
 _____ had to pay high rents and taxes although most were on the verge of famine.
 _____ could not participate in governmental affairs In spite of their economic position and influence.
- d) Economic crisis:
 New _____ had to be collected because of the _____ and the support of the American independence
 The king had to call the Estates General _____ new taxes.

To pass • levies • the bourgeois • colonial wars • enlightened • privileged • independence • peasants

b) The Revolution

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Social • oath • seized • burnt • Citizen

2. The constitutional monarchy and the war

- The _____ Girondins dominated the situation: they wanted a compromise with the king
- The properties of the Church were _____ and _____ at _____ .
- The Constitution of 1791 was moderate and conciliatory.
- The king conspired against the regime; he _____ from the Tuileries Palace in Paris.
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Auction • Invaded • sold • fled • trust • moderate • confiscated

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- Social laws to improve the conditions of life the Law of Maximum.
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- Jacobins sought to change France completely.
- The Convention _____ the Republic from its internal and external enemies.
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Put to • suffering • support • saved • provided • expanded

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- Moderate phase, under the influence of conservative bourgeois called the Directory.
- Military victories paved the political way for generals.
- 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte _____ the Directory after a *coup d'État* and he _____ a new constitution and a new political system, the Consulate.

Overthrew • imposed

c) Consequences of the French Revolution

- Revolutionary ideas _____ throughout Europe.
- The French military success _____ the creation of revolutionary Republics under French influence.
- The Austrian Low Countries and the Rhineland were _____ the direct rule of France.
- The imperial conquests of Napoleon _____ the influence of the revolutionary ideas.

Spread • put under • enlarged

There will be an allotted time. The group that gets the greatest number of right answers in the shortest time gets the credits.

Noun	Verb	Adjective

Vocabulary. Explain/define the following concepts/persons/ institutions. Use your own words

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estates General • Bastille • Constitution of 1791 • The First French Republic • M. Robespierre • Sans Culottes • The Convention • The Consulate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Assembly • Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen • Girondins • Jacobins • The Terror • The Vendée • The Directory |
|--|---|

Drama & Role playing, making live history.

The situation in question is a session of the French Legislative Assembly in 1791. Four groups of 4-5 students will defend/oppose a particular political position and defend/oppose a particular piece of legislation, they might surf the net to get extra information, they will be needing 2-3 sessions to prepare and present their positions. With their teacher's indications they might assume such roles as:

- Lameth
- Lafayette
- Brissot
- Carnot

Even though Robespierre did not participate in the discussions, he will be allowed to speak before the Assembly.

Every group will prepare a piece of legislation to be submitted to the consideration of the Assembly:

- The war against the absolutist powers
- The limitation of the prices of bread
- The conditions of the abolition of feudal rights
- The punishment of the refractory clergy

A debate will follow in a session of the Assembly, where all the groups will discuss their positions under the control of an elected speaker.