

**Napoleon: Man of War** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /15

### The Reaction Phase of the French Revolution

Directions: **Highlight** the answer in the text on the left *before* answering the questions on the right.

The **French Revolution** & the wars that followed created great opportunities in France for ambitious people. At the start of the 19th century, a young soldier named **Napoleon Bonaparte** took advantage of this. Napoleon came from the island of Corsica, south of France. All his life he believed he was meant to do great deeds. As a young soldier he **did not just follow orders**. He **made a scientific study of every battle he was in**. Soon the young officer felt he knew *more* than his commanders.

Napoleon was very good at planning & organizing battles. Before long, government leaders in Paris noticed him. In 1799, Napoleon was appointed to head the government during a period of unrest. As leader of France, Napoleon began a series of wars. France won most of them & gained new lands because of it.

Napoleon also restored order in France. He broke the power of the radical supporters of the revolution. But he also brought many of the ideas of the revolution into the French government.

By 1804, Napoleon had *crowned himself* emperor of France. He was on his way to spreading his empire all across Europe. Then 4 European countries joined forces to stop him. They succeeded. In 1815, his armies were defeated for the last time at Waterloo.

Napoleon was sent to St. Helena, a small island in the South Atlantic. *He was warned never to return!* There, he died in 1821. This is how 3 Frenchmen *might* have discussed the news of his death...

**Jean-Pierre:** What sad news! The emperor is dead!

**Alfonse:** Sad? *I'm not so sure...he did a lot for France, but he was also ambitious & vain. That's what finished him off, you know. He just kept scheming to get more! It made you wonder whether he cared more for France or himself?*

↓ Napoleon as a young officer



List 2 ways in which Napoleon became such a great soldier?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

What made Napoleon so good in battle?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Applying past knowledge: What ruler from the *Holy Roman Empire* was "*crowned emperor*" by the Pope? \_\_\_\_\_



(Clue: ↑ His name meant "great Charles.")

What *personal* traits made some believe Napoleon cared *more* about *himself*? \_\_\_\_\_

**Henri:** *Napoleon care for France? Ridiculous!* He deserted his men several times on the battlefield. He only came back to Paris because there was political advantage to be gained. This man made his brothers, sisters, & all his other relatives rulers of the countries he conquered. Napoleon a **patriot**? You must be kidding!

**Jean-Pierre:** Now wait just a minute here!! I served with the emperor. He was a leader, a **military genius**. How else can you account for the great victories we won? I remember the Battle of Jena in 1805. Those Prussian troops looked so sure of themselves. But we ran them right off the field. Look at the record: Italy, Belgium, Holland, Prussia, Austria, Poland! We conquered almost all of Europe!

**Alfonse:** I sympathize with you, Jean-Pierre. you must find this news of Napoleon's death sad. I always envied your stories of those great victories. But you are leaving out the stories of the terrible *losses*. First there was the naval disaster at Trafalgar off the coast of Spain in 1805. Remember how Admiral Nelson of the British Navy destroyed the French fleet? Without the fleet, Napoleon had to drop his plans for invading England!

**Henri:** Yes, & there was also the disaster in Spain. Napoleon conquered the country, but the Spanish took to the hills & never stopped fighting. Spain cost us many soldiers.

**Jean-Pierre:** You are right...I do leave those out. And it is still hard for me to talk about the disaster in Russia. I remember proudly marching off to Russia in 1812. We were the largest army in the world. There were 700,000 of us! With the emperor leading us, we believed we could not be beaten. Certainly, no rag-tag Russian army was going to defeat us, & *they* didn't! It was the weather that got us.

**Alfonse:** Tell Henri about it, Jean-Pierre. He's never heard you tell this story...

- A **patriot** is one who \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. patronizes another
  - b. is loyal to one's own country
  - c. loves one's country
  - d. all the above
  - e. b & c only

*Making inferences:* What would *make* Napoleon a "military genius"? \_\_\_\_\_

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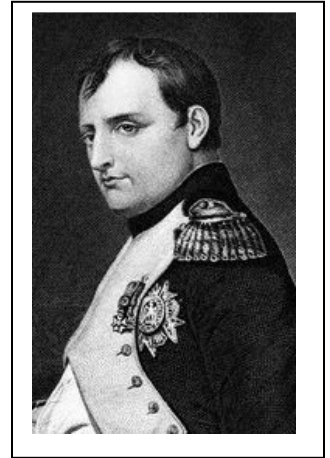
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*Drawing conclusions:* What made the battle in Spain so *disastrous*? \_\_\_\_\_

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**How was it that Napoleon's army was ultimately *defeated* in its war with Russia in 1812?**

- a. by pure Russian
- b. its weather
- c. It was *the* largest military genius in the world.
- d. Russia's army had 700,000 men.

**Jean-Pierre** (shuddering): It makes me cold just to think about it. The Russians knew they couldn't beat us, so they kept retreating. And when they retreated, they burned the fields & killed the livestock. Soon we were far from our bases & couldn't live off the land. We did not fight a real battle until Borodino, outside Moscow. We beat them, of course, but we lost a lot of men. When we entered Moscow, we couldn't believe it. The Russians had burned the city, so there was no shelter or food. Then we started to go back. And winter came. It snowed & snowed & snowed! And the wind howled. Oh, it was terrible! Men were dropping everywhere. We were forced to eat horses & mules! And then we ate nothing. You know that great army of 700,000 men I mentioned earlier? *More than half a million never made it home!*

**Alfonse:** Yes, that was the beginning of the end. The Prussians beat Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813. In 1814, Napoleon gave up the throne. A council of all the leaders of Europe met at Vienna. They agreed that Napoleon should be sent to Elba, an island off the coast of Italy. They also insisted that Louis XVIII, Louis XVI's brother, be made king.

**Alfonse:** Yes, that was too much for Napoleon. He crept back into France & raised another army.

**Jean-Pierre:** Oh, how I remember those 100 days when Napoleon came back. We, army men, were *sure* it was going to be like the old days...

**Henri:** It didn't last long. The combined armies of Europe rushed to Belgium to meet Napoleon. The **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815 was Napoleon's last stand, his defeat. The British Duke of Wellington proved to be the better general on that day. They didn't take any chances with Napoleon this time. They sent him all the way to the South Atlantic!

**Alfonse:** You know, it's funny. Napoleon was so famous as a general. And he will probably be remembered for his conquests. But I think his political accomplishments will prove to be the *more* lasting.



**Describe Russia's military tactics for battling Napoleon & his army:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applying math to history:** If more than half a million men died battling Russia, approximately what percent *survived*? Use the proportion & solve.

$$\frac{200,000}{700,000} = \frac{x}{100} = \text{less than } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \% \text{ (round to the nearest \%)}$$

**T or F:** To be banished to Elba, suggests that Napoleon was exiled to that Italian island.



**Making inferences:** What does the phrase "met your Waterloo" mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For what 2 things will Napoleon be remembered?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Jean-Pierre:** What do you mean? Are you saying that he wasn't a great military leader?

**Alfonse:** Of course not. Even Henri here, who despises Napoleon, will admit to that. No. Think for a minute about how Napoleon brought the achievements of the revolution into everyday life in France. First, look at the example of his own life. Napoleon believed that people's skills mattered, not their backgrounds or families. He changed things so that poor people had a chance to get ahead in government, the army & in business.

**Jean-Pierre:** Right. That's how I, the son of a peasant farmer, became an officer in the French army.

**Alfonse:** For a military man who often made his own laws, he really did believe in law. The **Napoleonic Code** made laws the same all over France & for all the French people. He put an end to special treatment for the nobles.

**Jean-Pierre:** That's true. Someone once said that Napoleon combined the Enlightenment with the revolution. I think that's true. He wasn't afraid of change. You're right, Alfonse. Napoleon really did change things. He brought many of the changes of the revolution to France & to the countries we conquered.

**Henri:** I don't mean to interrupt your fond memories, but aren't you forgetting something? This was the man who trampled on law when it suited him. He was an emperor ~ maybe one with good ideas, but an emperor just the same.

**Alfonse:** I agree with you, Henri, but I now realize he did many things that were good for France. What about you, Jean-Pierre?

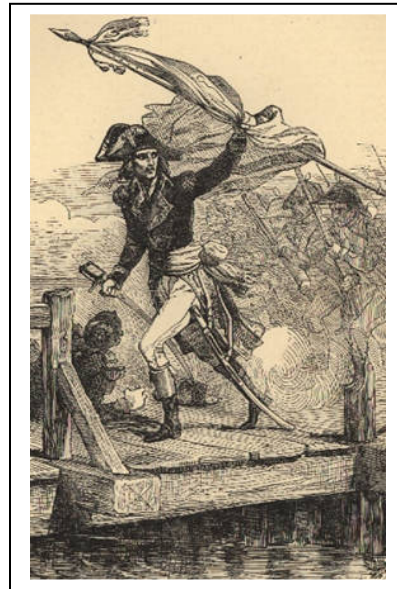
**Jean-Pierre:** I don't know. Maybe I can only see the man as my commander. To serve with him was an honor that I will remember all my life.

**Henri:** Well, some of the French today will weep, & some will dance for joy. I wonder what the future holds for France?



***Making inferences:** How was Napoleon able to better life for the poor?* \_\_\_\_\_

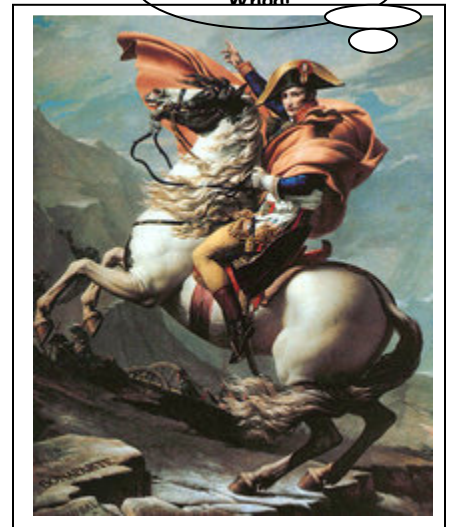
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***In a paragraph, CONTRAST the differences between how different groups of men viewed Napoleon from others?*** \_\_\_\_\_

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WHOA, Marengo!  
Whoa!



Napoleon crossing the Alps →