

**Storm Over France** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_ /20

**The ACTION Phase of the French Revolution**

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

France in 1789 was like a keg of dynamite. The nation of 24 million people was the wealthiest & largest country in Europe, but its government was broke!

How was this possible? France simply spent more money than it collected in taxes. The problem was *not* that the country spent too much. **It raised too little in taxes.** The nobles & clergy, the largest property-holders in France, paid few taxes.

The **nobility** still had great power. Many of the customs of **feudalism** that dated from the Middle Ages were still in place. This meant that the nobles had *special* privileges. They collected money from peasant farmers on their feudal **manors**, but passed little along to the government itself.

These feudal practices were not only draining the government, they were hurting the poor people of France. Special privileges for the **lords** meant that it was hard for poor people to *better* themselves. It also meant that food prices were high & pay was low.

**King Louis XVI** (16<sup>th</sup>) was *faced with a crisis* in 1789. *However, it was not his fault.* He had taken over a government on the verge of bankruptcy. Kings before him had spent money recklessly on wars...& they gave other nobility more privileges than commoners.

Louis had been unfairly considered a mean-spirited **tyrant**. On the contrary, most historians agree that he was a fair-minded king. He tried to find ways to end the crisis facing his country. Louis' main fault was that he couldn't make decisions ~ a serious failing for any leader! And, his wife, Queen **Marie Antoinette**, added to his difficulties. She loved fine things & had little sympathy for the poor. Marie Antoinette was *even so* disliked that most people believed an ugly rumor about her.

**Making inferences:** What does "...like a keg of dynamite" *suggest*? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

France was broke in 1789 *because* \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. it collected too many taxes  
 b. it spent too much money  
 c. it collected too little tax money  
 d. property-holders lost too much land

**Recalling past knowledge:** **Feudalism** was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Middle Ages.  
 a. government  
 b. religion  
 c. economy  
 d. mercantilism

**BONUS: Applying past knowledge & making analogies:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ : Rome :: **nobility** : France



Louis XVI *inherited* a government *nearly bankrupt* from \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Louis XVI's *greatest* fault was his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. wife  
 b. inability to make decisions  
 c. cruel tyranny  
 d. fair-mindedness

\_\_\_\_\_ *was hated* by her countrymen *because* \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



It was said that Marie Antoinette had heard that the poor were crying for bread...& she *supposedly* replied, "...then let them eat cake!"

In 1789, Louis was forced to call a meeting of a *special* assembly called the **Estates-General**. The Estates-General was made up of 3 groups, or estates (social classes). The **1<sup>st</sup> Estate** was made up of the clergy (religious leaders). The **2<sup>nd</sup> Estate** included all the **nobility** (the wealthy). And the **3<sup>rd</sup> Estate** was the common people.

The king had hoped that the three Estates-General would vote for more taxes & that this would put a quick end to the crisis. *Alas, no...*

The nobility did *not* want to give up their privileges. Neither they nor the commoners wanted to pay more taxes without getting something in return! Both groups wanted more political power. Before this struggle was resolved, neither France nor the European world would ever be the same again!

The trouble began before the meeting of the Estates-General. The assembly had not met since 1614! Louis had asked a court in Paris to tell him how the group should meet. The court, controlled by the nobles, ruled that the group should meet according to its old rules. This meant that each estate met & voted separately! This way, the votes by the first 2 estates together would be able to outnumber the 3<sup>rd</sup>!

The lawyers & businessmen of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate refused to accept the old rules. There were new ideas of liberty & equality in the land! Members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate argued that they were THE most important people in France. The nobility, they argued, was an old-fashioned idea from the Middle Ages.

When the Estates-General met at the **royal** → **palace at Versailles** outside Paris, the members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate refused to meet as a separate group. They left their meeting place & met on an indoor tennis court on the palace grounds. There they declared themselves the **National Assembly of France**.

What is the **irony** (insincerity) in Marie Antoinette supposedly saying "...then let them eat *cake*"?

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The **3 Estates-General** (social classes) included:

**1<sup>st</sup> Estate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2<sup>nd</sup> Estate:** \_\_\_\_\_

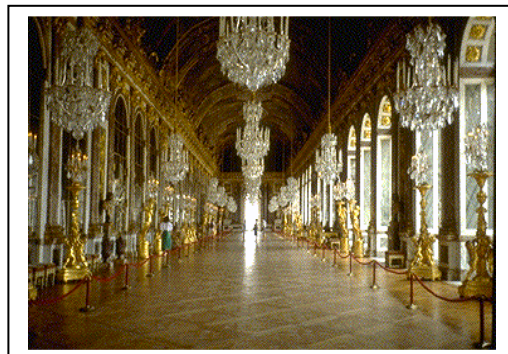
**3<sup>rd</sup> Estate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summarizing the conflict between the 3 Estates:**

\_\_\_\_\_ did *not* want to give up their \_\_\_\_\_.

*Neither* nobility *nor* the \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to pay *more* \_\_\_\_\_.

*Both* wanted *more political* \_\_\_\_\_!



← Hall of Mirrors

Drawing conclusions: *Why* would the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate believe **THEY** were the *most important*?

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate *met privately* on an *indoor* \_\_\_\_\_ & became the \_\_\_\_\_ of France.

These members also swore the *Oath of the Tennis Court*, promising to write a constitution for France. *The revolution had begun!*

All eyes now turned to King Louis XVI. Members of the National Assembly were still hopeful that the king would go along with them. The nobles & clergy reminded Louis that the National Assembly was talking as if *it*, not he, was the rightful ruler of France. Louis hesitated. Then he sided with the nobles & called 18,000 soldiers to Versailles!

In Paris, the news of the National Assembly came on top of bad economic news. Many working people were out of work. Others were on strike. Riots broke out about working conditions & the price of bread.

People were nervous about the soldiers in Versailles. Groups of people began to arm themselves. On July 14, one group set off for the **Bastille** ~ a fortress & prison in Paris. At the Bastille, the crowd demanded that the governor give them his cannons & other guns. In the confusion, a battle broke out! The enraged crowd surged into the Bastille & killed the governor, soldiers, & other officials. And the seven prisoners in the fort were freed.

The "**storming of the Bastille**" was the opening of the bloody battle that was the French Revolution. To those fighting for change, it was an inspiring moment. To this day, French people regard July 14<sup>th</sup>, called **Bastille Day**, as Americans do July 4<sup>th</sup>.

By the summer of 1789, the National Assembly was controlling the government of France. In the beginning of August it ended feudalism, doing away with all the special privileges of nobles & the debts that peasants owed them.

The National Assembly passed the *Declaration of the Rights of Man*, in August, a document stating the principles of the revolution. The assembly declared that all people had the rights of freedom & equality. The words of the Declaration: "**Liberty, equality, fraternity**" became the battle cry of the revolution!

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate swears to an \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.



Why did riots break out in Paris?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_



The French \_\_\_\_\_ began with the Storming of the Bastille ↑,

Making analogies: Independence Day : US :: \_\_\_\_\_ : France

- The National Assembly assisted commoners by \_\_\_\_.
- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. eliminating peasant debts | c. eliminating special privileges |
| b. ending feudalism          | d. all the above                  |

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ stated the \_\_\_\_\_.

T or F: Brotherhood is a synonym for fraternity.

Summer events pushed the revolution forward. But all of France was *not* in favor of what was happening. Nobles hated losing their privileges. They thought it shameful when a group of angry peasant women dragged the king to Paris. To them, the common rabble (crowd) had insulted the dignity of the king.

French people were turning against each other over the revolution. Many important nobles left France & went to other countries in Europe. There they pleaded with fellow aristocrats to help the nobles of France. The leader of the nobles was the king's brother, Count of Artois.

Inside France, people were divided over the National Assembly's new law taking away all property belonging to the Catholic Church. It even went further. It now made all priests employees of the government ~ bitterly dividing the French. Religious Catholics turned against the revolution. Fighting broke out in the provinces against the revolutionary government.

In 1791, King Louis XVI secretly left Paris. He tried to flee the country to join his brother & other nobles. His carriage was stopped near the German border, & the king was returned to Paris! The assembly & its supporters now considered the king a **traitor** to France!

King Louis XVI was tried & convicted of **treason** ~ or attempting to overthrow the government. A slim majority of the assembly voted that he should be put to death! The next day, the king courageously faced the **guillotine** ~ a device used to kill people by cutting off their heads. He was beheaded in front of a large public crowd.

The kings of Europe had already begun to make war against France. The supporters of the French Revolution were ready. They were fighting for a cause: their newly won liberty! French armies not only met the invading armies, they threw them back & invaded neighboring countries. In each, the French spread the ideas of **liberty, equality & fraternity!**

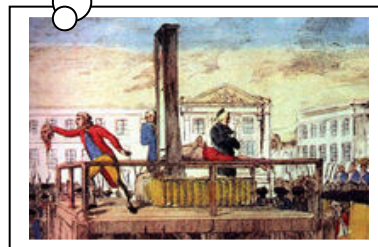
↓ Liberty leading the French people...



France's battle cry of: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity!" ↓



Heads are gonna roll!

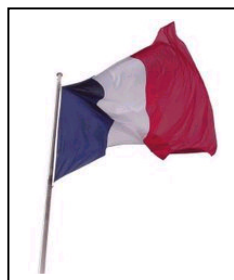


Louis XVI was **executed by** \_\_\_\_.

- gunpoint
- poison
- electrocution
- guillotine

**Liberty** is **another word for** \_\_\_\_.

- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| a. captivity    | c. freedom |
| b. imprisonment | d. war     |



The battle cry of the French Revolution was

" \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, &  
 \_\_\_\_\_!"