



The French Revolution - Viewing Chart

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
- Maximillien 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

Questions

1. Which groups in France made up each one of the three estates?
2. What are some of the reasons the documentary gives for the dissatisfaction of the Third Estate?
3. Why do you think King Louis XVI gave in at first to some of the demands of the Third Estate?
4. Marie Antoinette’s nickname was _____, indicating her uncontrolled spending habits as many French suffered from starvation.

Questions

1. What role did the “Enlightenment” play in driving the French people to participate in the Revolution?
2. Why was the guillotine considered a more humane form of punishment?
3. Jean-Paul Marat published a newspaper called _____ which supported the main political group leading the Revolution, the Jacobins.
4. What do you think the majority of French people wanted to see changed as a result of the Revolution? Why were they so upset?

Questions

1. Robespierre stated “Louis must die, that the country can live.” What do you think this quote means?
2. Why do you think the executions by guillotine in France were public events?
3. The _____ was the phase of the Revolution in which huge numbers of French people were executed.
4. What do you think is the greatest legacy of the French Revolution?