

The Legacy of the French Revolution

The legacy of the French Revolution is a complicated one. The ripples caused by its leaders and their various goals continue to influence history into our own times.

What was gained by the Revolution? In some ways, the lot of French peasants did not change drastically. Many of the poor still could not vote by 1795, and many did not yet own property. Of course, serfdom

had officially been brought to an end, changing many lives for the better.

The French middle class gained considerably from the Revolution. Power was never again centered in the hands of a small aristocracy, but could be won through personal achievement, talent, and enterprise. The Church survived the Revolution. The Cult of the Supreme Being did not last

beyond Robespierre's death. However, much of the land lost by the Church was never restored and the Church never held power over people again.

Most importantly, the French Revolution created an example for others to consider the importance of such high-minded goals as liberty and equality. Both this Revolution and the American Revolution led to future revolutions in

Europe, Latin America, and elsewhere over the decades to follow.

Review and Write

Using the timeline below, identify the five most important events of each phase of the French Revolution.

May 1789	June 1789	October 1791	September 1792	October 1795
Meeting of the Estates General	National Assembly	Legislative Assembly (Constitutional Monarchy)	National Convention (Republic)	
1)	1)	1)	1)	
2)	2)	2)	2)	
3)	3)	3)	3)	
4)	4)	4)	4)	
5)	5)	5)	5)	

The French Revolution: People and Places

Part I. People. Identify the people listed below and their role in the French Revolution.

Louis XVI
Marie Antoinette
Comte de Mirabeau
Jean Sylvain Bailly
Marquis de Lafayette
Axel Fersen
Maximilien Robespierre
Georges Danton
Napoleon Bonaparte

Part II. Places. Identify the places listed below and their significance to the French Revolution.

Versailles
Versailles Tennis Court
the Invalides
Bastille
the Tuileries
the Manege
Varennes
Temples of Reason

Test I

Part I. Matching (Worksheets 1-6)

Match the answers to the right with the statement on the left.

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|---|-------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Consisted of the three medieval classes of French society | A. Bastille |
| _____ 2. Agreement made by members of the third estate to write a constitution | B. March of the Women |
| _____ 3. Political group formed in 1789 which wrote France's first constitution | C. Marquis de Lafayette |
| _____ 4. Paris fortress-prison which was attacked by Revolutionaries in July 1789 | D. Estates General |
| _____ 5. Tricolor banner symbolizing the Revolution | E. Marie Antoinette |
| _____ 6. Revolutionary mayor of Paris by 1789 | F. cockade |
| _____ 7. Revolutionary document proclaiming freedoms in France | G. National Assembly |
| _____ 8. Leader of the Revolution and veteran of the American Revolution | H. Monarchists |
| _____ 9. Mob action which moved on Versailles to capture the king | I. Declaration of the Rights of Man |
| _____ 10. Louis XVI's queen of Austrian heritage | J. departments |
| _____ 11. Political supporters of the king | K. Tennis Court Oath |
| _____ 12. Political divisions of France which replaced Catholic bishoprics | L. Jean Sylvain Bailly |

Part II. Matching (Worksheets 7-12)

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| _____ 1. Swedish count who assisted the royal family in their escape | A. Varennes |
| _____ 2. Frontier border town where the royal family was captured | B. Jacobins |
| _____ 3. Young idealists who wanted a republican government in France | C. Committee of Public Safety |
| _____ 4. Political group led by Maximilien Robespierre | D. Reign of Terror |
| _____ 5. Meaning "without knee breeches," they were urban workers | E. Temples of Reason |
| _____ 6. Revolutionary body which pursued all political opponents with a vengeance | F. guillotine |
| _____ 7. Revolutionary court which carried out swift, often unfair justice | G. Georges Danton |
| _____ 8. Name given the Revolutionary bloodshed of 1793-94 | H. Cult of the Supreme Being |
| _____ 9. Revolutionary name for former Christian houses of worship | I. Revolutionary Tribunal |
| _____ 10. Festival sponsored by Robespierre in summer of 1794 | J. sans-culottes |
| _____ 11. Associate of Robespierre whom he ordered executed | K. Girondins |
| _____ 12. Instrument of death during the French Revolution | L. Axel Fersen |

Part III. Respond and Write

What were some of the successes and failures of the French Revolution?