

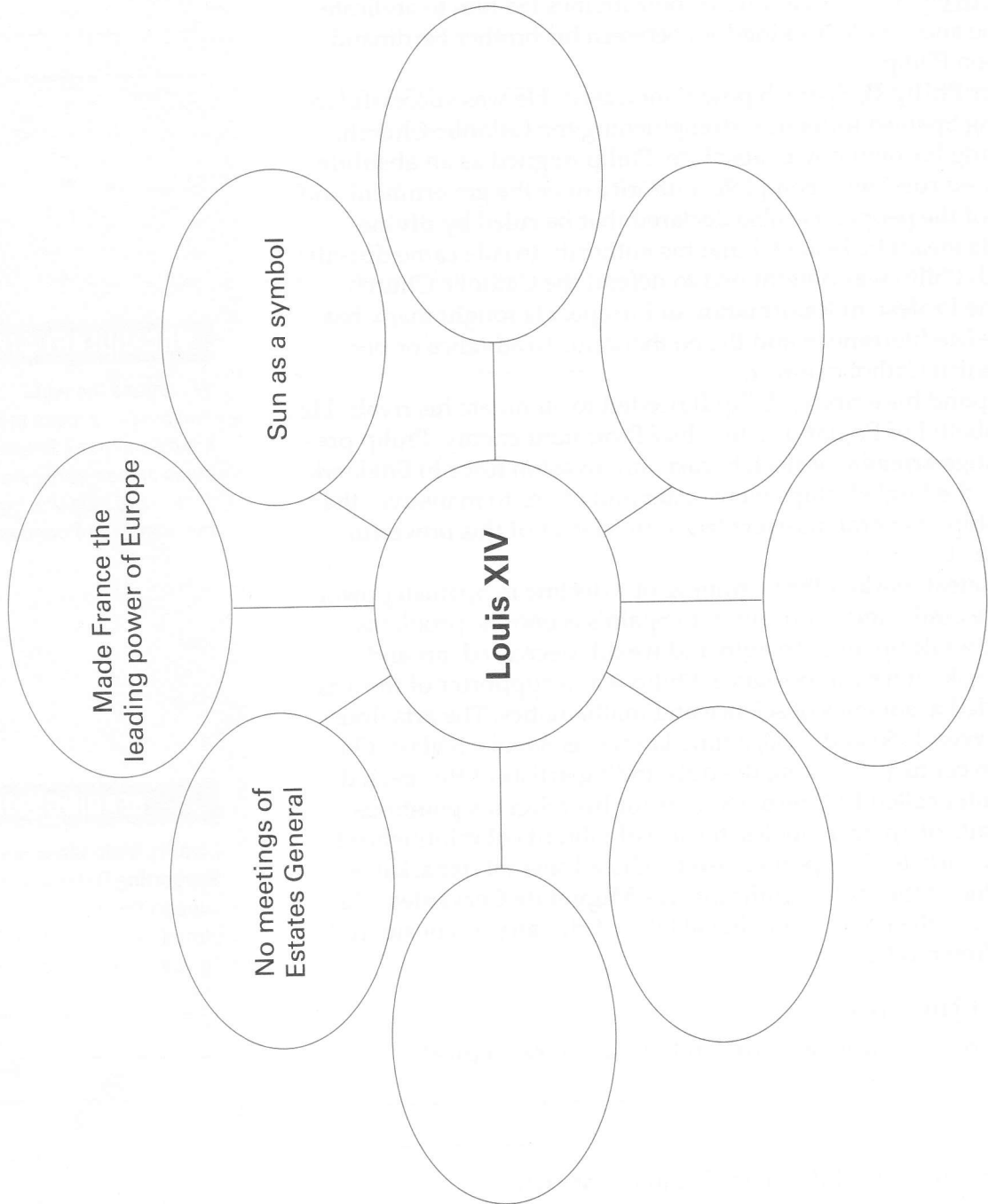
CHAPTER
16
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

FRANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV

Focus Question: How did France become the leading power of Europe under the absolute rule of Louis XIV?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the concept web to identify supporting details about the rule of Louis XIV.



CHAPTER 16 SECTION 2

Section Summary

FRANCE UNDER LOUIS XIV

In the late 1500s, France was torn apart by religious conflict between French Protestants, called Huguenots, and Catholics. In an event called the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, thousands of Huguenots were slaughtered. In 1598, King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes to protect Protestants. This granted the Huguenots religious toleration and other freedoms.

After Henry's assassination in 1610, his nine-year-old son, Louis XIII, inherited the throne. Louis appointed Cardinal Richelieu as his chief minister. Richelieu sought to strengthen royal power by crushing any groups that did not bow to royal authority. In 1643, five-year-old Louis XIV inherited the French throne. When his chief minister died, Louis XIV resolved to take complete control of the government. He believed in his divine right to rule and even called himself the Sun King to symbolize his vital role within the nation. Louis XIV expanded the royal government and appointed intendants—royal officials who collected taxes, recruited soldiers, and carried out his policies in the provinces. To fuel the country's economy, Louis's finance minister, Jean Baptiste Colbert, expanded commerce and trade. Taxes helped finance the king's extravagant lifestyle. Outside Paris, Louis XIV transformed a royal hunting lodge into the grand palace of Versailles. The palace represented the king's great power and wealth. Elaborate court ceremonies were held to emphasize the king's importance. For example, during the ritual known as the levee, or rising, high-ranking nobles would compete for the honor of handing the king his shoes. The purpose was to keep the nobles in Versailles to gain their support and prevent them from getting too powerful.

Under Louis XIV, France became the strongest state in Europe. However, the country's prosperity began to erode. This loss of wealth was caused by some of Louis's decisions. He fought costly wars to extend French borders, but rival rulers resisted in order to maintain the balance of power. Louis also revoked the Edict of Nantes, driving over 100,000 hard-working and prosperous Huguenots out of France.

Review Questions

1. How did Henry IV end religious conflict?

2. What was the purpose of intendants?

What were the main reasons why France lost economic strength?

READING CHECK

What does the word erode mean in the underlined sentence? Do you know what erosion is? Use any prior knowledge you might have about the word erosion to help you figure out the meaning of erode.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Identify Supporting Details How did Louis XIV strengthen the French monarchy? Identify key details that contributed to France's becoming the leading power of Europe.

READING SKILL