

Week 1: The Background to the Revolution
The Start of the Revolution:

- The Revolution began in 1789.
- The aim was to stop the 'absolute' rule of King Louis XVI.
- The government was bankrupt and the King, was a weak leader.

Key Words:

Absolute Monarch– a king or queen who has total power

Divine Right to Rule-the belief that kings and queens are chosen by God and can not be challenged

Revolution– a major change in how a country is governed

Estates-General– a meeting of the Three Estates in 1789

The Third Estate– ordinary people in France

Week 2: The Start of the Revolution
The National Assembly:

- When King Louis tried to close down the Estates General, the members took the 'Tennis Court Oath' to demand certain rights from the King.
- They called themselves The National Assembly, they aimed to end the King's power.
- The National Assembly promised to rule France until the government was re-formed.

The Storming of the Bastille:

- This was the start of the revolution.
- Members of the Third Estate attacked a prison called the Bastille
- The people broke down the prison gates and freed political prisoners.
- In October 1789 angry people marched from Paris to Versailles and brought the King back to Paris.

Week 3: The Rights of Man
The Rights of Man:

- The National Assembly adopted the "Rights of Man" which stated that:
"Men are born free and remain free and equal in rights"
- The Assembly stopped any rules which separated people due to their wealth and status.
- Peasants no longer had to farm nobles' land for free.
- Most male citizens were given the right to vote.
- The first National Assembly allowed the King to remain on the throne.
- In 1792 a new assembly removed the King from his throne.
- Maximilien Robespierre was elected leader of the original Estates-General and served in the National Assembly.

Week 4: The Reign Terror
The Reign of Terror:

- By 1793 France was in the 'grip' of "The Terror".
- Laws were passed to make it easy to arrest and accuse people of being anti-revolutionaries.
- If found guilty anti-revolutionaries were executed.
- 40,000 people were executed, most were killed by a machine called the guillotine.
- During the reign of terror crowds surrounded the this guillotine to watch the executions.

Key Words:

Terror-extreme fear

"Reign of Terror"- using violence to ensure that people are scared of those in power

Guillotine– a machine used to cut people's heads off nicknamed the National Razor

Week 5: Chronology of the Revolution

- 1765 - Louis XVI became King of France.
- 1789 - The National Assembly was created
- 1792 -1815 -The Napoleonic Wars, France was at war with Britain and many other countries.
- January 1793 - Louis XVI was executed by guillotine
- September 1793 - The Reign of Terror began.
- July 1794 -The Reign of Terror ends and Robespierre is executed
- 1799 - Napoleon seized power,
- 1804 - Napoleon appointed himself Emperor of France

Week 6: Key Individuals
Key Words:

- Martyr - a person who is willing to die for their faith

Key people:

- Thomas Paine– wrote the Rights of Man
- Louis XVI - King of France when the revolution began
- Marie Antoinette - Queen of France when the revolution began
- Maximilien Robespierre - one of the most powerful and radical leaders of the French Revolution
- Napoleon - successful military leader, who made himself Emperor