

**The French Revolution,  
Part Two: October, 1791-November, 1799  
The Continuing Rebellion**



**Teacher's Guide**

**The French Revolution, Part 2: October, 1791-November 1799**  
**The Continuing Rebellion**  
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Part Two, October, 1791-November, 1799  
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**The French Revolution, Part Two,  
October, 1791-November, 1799  
The Continuing Rebellion**

Grades 7-10

Viewing Time: 14 minutes with a one-minute,  
five question Video Quiz

**INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM**

This program examines the following events of the French Revolution:

- The problems faced the Legislative Assembly (the second government of the French Revolution)
- Wars in defense of the monarchy
- Birth of the National Convention (the third government of the French Revolution) and the establishment of the First Republic
- The execution of King Louis XVI
- The guillotine
- The *Reign of Terror*
- Revolutionary tribunals
- The Directory (the fourth government of the French Revolution), the rise of Napoleon, the end of the French Revolution
- The Louisiana Purchase

**LINKS TO CURRICULUM STANDARDS**

**World History Standard and Benchmarks (3rd Ed.)**

**Era 7 - An Age of Revolutions, 1750-1914**

**Standard 32- Understands the causes and consequences of political revolutions in the late 18th and early 19th centuries**

Grades 5-6

Understands the ideas and events that shaped the Revo-

lution in France (e.g., the causes, character, and consequences of the American and French revolutions; the meaning of the revolutionary slogan in France, *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, and the social ideals it embodied; the legacy of leading ideas of the revolution; how the wars of the revolutionary and Napoleonic periods changed Europe and Napoleon's effects on the aims and outcomes of the revolution; connections between political events in the Americas and France between 1770 and 1815).

#### Grades 7-8

Understands the diverse factors (e.g., the Seven Years War, Enlightenment-era thought, the American Revolution, escalating internal economic crisis) that affected social and political conditions in Old Regime France

Understands events and ideas that influenced the course of the French Revolution (e.g., how the revolution developed from constitutional monarchy to democratic despotism to the Napoleonic empire; the organization of the Estates-General and its merits and limitations; central ideas and origins of the *Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen*)

Understands how the French Revolution changed social conditions in France (e.g., how the revolution changed political and religious institutions, social relations, education, family life, and the legal and political position of women; how territorial changes were made in Europe between 1789 and 1815 and their consequences for diverse social groups such as clergy, nobility, peasantry, bourgeoisie, and sans-culottes)

Knows the consequences of Napoleon's invasions.



### Grades 9-12

Understands the political beliefs and writings that emerged during the French Revolution (e.g., characteristics and actions of radical, liberal, moderate, conservative, and reactionary thinking; the ideas in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen*)

### **INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES**

Before presenting this lesson to your students, we suggest that you preview the program, review the guide, and the accompanying Blackline Master activities in order to familiarize yourself with their content.

As you review the materials presented in this guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, additions, or deletions to meet the specific needs of your class. We encourage you to do so; for only by tailoring this program to your class will they obtain the maximum instructional benefits afforded by the materials.

### **PRE-TEST**

**Pre-Test** is an assessment tool intended to gauge student comprehension of the objectives prior to viewing the program. Explain that they are not expected to get all the answers correct. You can remind your students that these are key concepts that they should focus on while watching the program.

### **STUDENT PREPARATION**

Set up a Learning Center with pictures, maps, diagrams and charts etc. relevant to the topics presented in this program such as:

- Pictures of the guillotine and executions

- Pictures of revolutionary tribunals
- The French flag
- The motto of the First Republic
- Maps depicting invasions and wars fought during the French Revolution
- Maps depicting areas of major resistance to the French Revolution
- Pictures of major figures of the Revolution: King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Robespierre, Danton, Marat, Desmoulins, Napoleon, etc.
- A French Revolution timeline
- Map of the Louisiana Purchase

### **STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

After viewing the program and completing the follow-up activities, students should be able to:

- Explain the problems faced by the Legislative Assembly (the second Government of the French Revolution).
- Describe the nature of the wars in defense of the monarchy.
- Describe the National Convention (the third government of the French Revolution) and the establishment of the First Republic.
- Explain the reasons for the execution of King Louis XVI.
- Explain how and why the guillotine was used.
- Describe the Reign of Terror.
- Explain the purpose of revolutionary tribunals.
- Describe the rise of Napoleon and how it brought about the end of the French Revolution.
- Explain Napoleon's role in the Louisiana Purchase.

## **INTRODUCING THE PROGRAM**

Duplicate and administer **Blackline Master #1, Pre-Test**. Remind your students that they are not expected to know all the answers. Suggest that they use these questions as a guide for taking notes on the key concepts while viewing the program.

## **VIEW THE PROGRAM**

Running Time: 14 minutes plus a one-minute, five-question Video Quiz.

Hand out **Blackline Master #3, Video Quiz**.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

After viewing the program you may find it helpful to discuss key concepts as a class. The following questions/statements may prove to be useful. You may also choose to use these topics to begin a discussion prior to viewing the program.

- ✓ Discuss important events and ideas that influenced the course of the French Revolution (e.g., how the revolution developed from constitutional monarchy to an ineffective democracy to the Napoleonic Empire).
- ✓ Discuss the permanent effects of the French Revolution.
- ✓ Discuss the causes of frayed American-French relations from 1789 to 1799.
- ✓ Discuss the activities of the revolutionary tribunals.

## DESCRIPTION OF BLACKLINE MASTERS

**Blackline Master #1, Pre-Test**, is an assessment tool intended to gauge student comprehension of the objectives prior to viewing the program.

**Blackline Master #2, Post-Test**, is an assessment tool to be administered after viewing the program and completing additional activities. The results of this assessment can be compared to the results of the Pre-Test to determine the change in student comprehension before and after participation in this lesson.

**Blackline Master #3, Video Quiz**, is intended to reinforce the key concepts of the program following the presentation of the program. Student awareness that a Video Quiz will be given also helps promote attention to the video presentation.

**Blackline Master #4, Crossword Puzzle**, is a puzzle game based on information presented in the program.

**Blackline Masters #5 and 6, Timeline and Activity**, presents important chronological events that occurred during this era in history.

**Blackline Masters #7 and 8, Vocabulary and Activity**, includes important names, people, places, and words relating to events that occurred during this era in history.

## EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Research papers, oral reports, news reports, or PowerPoint® presentations could be done on the following subjects:

- ✓ How the French Revolution changed social conditions

in France (e.g., how the revolution changed political and religious institutions, social relations, education, family life, and the legal and political position of women).

✓ How territorial changes were made in Europe between 1789 and 1799 and their consequences for diverse social groups such as the clergy, nobility, peasantry, bourgeoisie, and sans-culottes.

✓ The French Revolution's impact on the Catholic faith and religion in general (e.g., the creation of the Pantheon, the festival of the Supreme Being, Civil Constitution for the Clergy).

✓ A chronology of the wars waged by France during and immediately after the French Revolution.

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **Blackline Master #1, Pre-Test**

1. True
2. False. It brought war and economic problems persisted
3. False. Napoleon, who later crowned himself emperor, overthrew France's revolutionary government and the attempt at democracy failed.
4. True
5. True

#### **Blackline Master #2, Post-Test**

##### **A. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood (Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité)
2. Jacobin
3. Directory
4. Egypt
5. Catholics

B. Essay:

While the revolution that created the American nation had focused on winning independence from a distant mother country, the situation in France was quite different because the French Revolution was not about colonies gaining independence. Instead, it focused on destroying an unfair class system and the rule of kings that had existed in France for over 800 years.

Whereas the Americans basically fought one big war to win colonial independence and eventually create a democracy, French revolutionaries fought against internal and external foes who wanted to protect the French monarchy. The French Revolution involved changing the structure of the national government several times, but in the end, in spite of instituting many democratic changes, a successful democratic government did not arise

Because of the class-based hatred that had developed in France over the centuries, the French Revolution was far more brutal and resulted in 10 times as many deaths as the American Revolution. And even though the French Revolution lasted for 10 years, it took many more decades before a successful democracy came into existence in France. Nevertheless, the Revolution's effects were widespread and immediate, because monarchies all across Europe lost power and, as that happened, the lives of ordinary people began to greatly improve.

**Blackline Master #3, Video Quiz**

1. True
2. True
3. False. They used the guillotine excessively to get rid of counter-revolutionaries.
4. False. Washington decided that the U.S.A. would not get involved in the European wars.
5. True



## **SCRIPT OF NARRATION**

From its beginning here at the royal palace of Versailles in 1789, the French Revolution had been very different from the American Revolution. Whereas the Americans basically fought one big war to win colonial independence and eventually create a democracy, French Revolutionaries fought against internal and external foes who wanted to protect the French monarchy. The French Revolution involved changing the structure of the national government several times, but in the end, a successful democratic government did not arise

During the first three years of the French Revolution, the period when the National Assembly ruled France, many important legal changes were enacted to benefit ordinary citizens. Up to this point, although the king's role as a leader had been severely restricted, the success of the revolutionary government still very much depended on receiving his cooperation. And even though there had been some very serious outbreaks of violence during this stage of the Revolution, only a small number of deaths had occurred. But the relative peacefulness that existed in France in the autumn of 1791 was about to be shattered as the newly elected Legislative Assembly, the second government of the French Revolution, prepared to take over.

At the same time, the people of the United States were in the process of approving the first 10 amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights, while further west, Spain was busy colonizing California by building a long chain of missions near the Pacific Coast.

### **The Legislative Assembly Takes Charge, October 1, 1791**

When the Legislative Assembly took charge of the government of France on October 1, 1791, it faced three serious challenges:



First, the severe economic troubles that had helped cause the French Revolution in the first place still persisted, and they were inflicting many hardships on the French people.

Second, French Catholics, upset that the revolutionary government was trying to suppress their religion, strongly opposed the rule of the Legislative Assembly. Just one example of such anti-Catholicism occurred when revolutionaries closed down the Paris church that was once housed in this building so it could be converted into a tomb for the great heroes of the Revolution. And, to add insult to injury, the government had changed the Catholic name of the church to a pagan name, the Pantheon, which was a temple to all the gods in the days of ancient Rome.

The third serious problem for the Legislative Assembly came from the king of France himself. He had been secretly trying to obtain military support from other monarchs to destroy the revolutionary government, warning them that if France's revolution were not stopped, it might spread across the continent and threaten their kingdoms as well.

### **Birth of the First Republic and The Execution of the King, April 1792 - January, 1793**

In the spring of 1792, all across France, there were many large areas where people were still actively resisting the French Revolution. And by then, most of the moderate revolutionaries in the Legislative Assembly had been replaced by radicals who wished to eliminate those opposed to their rule. Also that spring, a newly invented killing-machine for chopping off the heads of wrong doers, called the guillotine, was used in a public execution for the first time.

It was becoming clear to the government that King Louis' efforts at finding military support were succeeding, and that a serious threat to the French Revolution was brewing to the east in the powerful kingdoms of Austria and Prussia. The revolutionaries declared war on them; and by July, foreign troops were poised to invade France.

Angry revolutionaries blamed the impending invasion on the king. And early that August, his royal palace in Paris, that once overlooked these beautiful gardens, was attacked. The king and his family were hauled off to prison, 600 palace guards were massacred, and the king's remaining royal powers were suspended. Soon the guillotine was put to work again. This time, mass executions of people accused of being enemies of the Revolution were carried out in various public squares in Paris. The violence continued on into the next month and during what are called the September Massacres, 1,200 prisoners, many of them members of the clergy, were cruelly butchered by the revolutionaries while still in their cells.

That same September, the French army won a glorious victory by soundly defeating the invading Prussians at the Battle of Valmy in eastern France. This was a tremendous defeat for supporters of the monarchy, because a third revolutionary government, called the National Convention, was immediately established. The Convention abolished the monarchy and proclaimed the birth of France's First Republic (a republic being a nation run by the elected representatives of the people). The leaders of the First Republic vowed to eliminate other monarchies as well. And to sum up their vision for the French people, the motto *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*, meaning Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood, was adopted.

Early in 1793, a criminal court found the king guilty of plotting against the government and sentenced him to death. On January 21 of that year, this busy Paris square was filled with people. They were hoping to catch a final glimpse of the king before he died on the guillotine; which, on that day, had been set up right about here. After the execution was over, cheers filled the air as the king's severed head was shown to the enthusiastic crowd. But the king's execution had quite the opposite effect on the rulers of the kingdoms of Spain, Great Britain, and Holland, because it caused them to join with Austria and Prussia in the war against France. And despite pleas for help from its old ally France, President Washington decided that the United States would not get involved in the rapidly escalating European war.

### **The Terror**

By the spring of 1793, foreign troops were invading France from several directions, while at the same time, large numbers of French citizens were speaking out against French Revolution. Important revolutionary leaders, such as Georges Jacques Danton, helped pass emergency measures to stop those opposed to the government. One of the most extreme measures was to create special courts of law known as revolutionary tribunals, whose sole purpose was to try those accused of counter-revolutionary activities.

Interestingly, some of the first people convicted by the new tribunals were sent to this walled town that had been turned into a prison, due to the fact that the nation's other prisons were so overcrowded. In May of 1793, the first batch of 700 prisoners arrived here, and more than half of them were women. Later on, 245 priests were imprisoned in the town for refusing to support the *Civil Constitution for the Clergy* (this was the law that had placed the Catholic Church under government control).

By the summer of 1793, a special Committee for Public Safety had been operating for several months as part of the National Convention, and it actually ruled France. Members of the committee belonged to a Paris political group called the Jacobin Club that was well known for its radical ways. Their group was headed by a controversial figure named Maximilien Robespierre, a man respected for being impossible to corrupt, but who often acted like a dictator. The Committee for Public Safety organized a Reign of Terror against anyone who publicly disagreed with official government policies.

During the Reign of Terror, this prison in Paris, called the Conciergerie, held many well-known political prisoners. The most famous prisoner was the king's wife, Queen Marie Antoinette, a woman despised for her arrogant and extravagant ways. In October of 1793, a revolutionary tribunal sentenced the queen to death. This was not a surprising verdict because during The Terror, as it was called, nine out of ten people tried by the tribunals were found guilty. Before being beheaded, prisoners at the Conciergerie were escorted to this cell in order to have their hair cut so that it would not interfere with the guillotine's blade. Then the prisoners were loaded into carts like this one, and hauled through the streets to wherever the guillotine had been set up for the day's public executions. Amazingly, it is estimated that the revolutionary tribunals sentenced 18,000 people to death during the Reign of Terror.

Oddly enough, the era of the Reign of Terror, also known as the Jacobin Dictatorship, was a time when many important democratic changes were instituted in France. However, after the invasions of France were successfully halted by the French Army, many of these reforms were reversed when a new group of politicians gained power in the summer of 1794. And by then, the main leaders of the Jacobin Dictatorship had been put to death for treason.

### **The Directory and the Rise of Napoleon: October, 1795 - November, 1799**

In October of 1795, a young military officer with a great thirst for power named Napoleon Bonaparte put down an uprising by royalists. After the uprising had been quelled, a fourth revolutionary government called the Directory was formed, and they set up their operations here at the Luxembourg Palace in Paris. After the Directory took over, Napoleon grew to be a very popular hero in France, due to his brilliant military victories in Italy. In 1797, the Directory even asked him to take charge of an invasion of Great Britain. But Napoleon did not like the government's plan. Instead he convinced the Directory to approve an invasion of Egypt. His goal was to disrupt vital British trade in the Middle East and then establish a French colony. It is interesting to note that Napoleon brought scholars along with him when he invaded Egypt. And back in France, their discoveries caused a tremendous fascination for the ancient Egyptian civilization to develop.

In the end, Napoleon's plan for Egypt failed; nevertheless, he remained a strong and respected leader in the eyes of the French people. And as the dawn of the 19th century approached, the French people wanted a strong leader more than a poorly functioning democracy. And in November of 1799, with the help of certain influential politicians, Napoleon brought about an end to the French Revolution by seizing control of the government of France.

### **Napoleon and the Louisiana Purchase**

Napoleon's rise to power had extremely important consequences for the people of the United States, and it makes an interesting post-script to the story of the French Revolution, because only one year after taking over, Napoleon forced Spain to return the Louisiana Territory to France (this was the land west of the Mississippi River

that France had ceded to the Spanish after the French and Indian War). Then, in 1803, in order to finance his war efforts in Europe, Napoleon turned around and sold the entire territory to the United States. And thanks to this sale, called the Louisiana Purchase, the size of the United States was doubled for a mere 15 million dollars.

### **VIDEO QUIZ**

1. True or False? Most members of the Jacobin Club supported the Reign of Terror.
2. True or False? King Louis XVI was executed shortly after France's First Republic was declared.
3. True or False? The Committee for Public Safety worked to end excessive use of the guillotine.
4. True or False? President Washington decided to help France in its wars with other European nations.
5. True or False? The French Revolution ended when Napoleon seized power.