

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary:

Step	Defeat	Ruin	Tax	Due to
Stratum	Coup	Support	Crop	Towards

- 1. Paso \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Hacia \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Estamento \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Cosecha \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Impuesto \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Ruina \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Debido a \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Apoyar \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Golpe de estado \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Derrota \_\_\_\_\_



## **1) Read the following text:**

### The importance of the French Revolution

The French Revolution is the most important revolution in History. It is important because it was the first time that the population of a country tried to change the organization of society. The French Revolution was the beginning of the end of the Ancient Regime.

The impact of the French Revolution affected not only France because France was the most important and powerful country in the World in these years and many countries in Europe followed the example of the French people. The French Revolution was the first step towards the end of injustice and inequality in society.

### The causes of the French Revolution

The causes of the French Revolution can be divided in two types: long – time causes and immediate causes.

The long time cause of the Revolution was the rivalry between the bourgeoisie and the privileged stratum (the nobility and the clergy). The bourgeoisie was a stratum composed of very rich people (commerce men and bankers), but they were discriminated against in society: they had to pay taxes and they had no privileges. The objective of the bourgeoisie was to eliminate the Ancient Regime.

The immediate causes of the Revolution were provoked by the economic crisis of France in the final years of the XVIII century. These final years were terrible for the agriculture: the crops were very poor and the population of the country was hungry. The economic situation of the French monarchy was also terrible because of the wars. The king, Louis XVI, was completely ruined, he needed money desperately. The only solution for this economic ruin was to introduce new taxes.

### The first moments of the Revolution

Due to the bad economic situation, the king convoked a meeting of the French parliament to discuss new taxes. In this parliament were represented the members of the three strata: nobility, clergy and the third stratum (the bourgeoisie). Each stratum had only one vote in the parliament, so the union of the privileged strata (nobility and clergy) made any change impossible in the tax system.

The bourgeoisie didn't accept the voting system and they decided to abandon the meeting and to create their own parliament: the National Assembly. Their objective was to finish with the Ancient Regime and to elaborate a constitution for the country.

This National Assembly was quickly supported by the French population. The 14 of July, the people of Paris assaulted the Bastille fortress, a prison which was the center of the army in Paris. It was a very important event because it was a symbolic victory of the non – privileged people against the Ancient Regime. The 14 of July is still today celebrated as the national day in France.

After the assault of the Bastille fortress, the National Assembly took control of the government and they took their first decisions: they eliminated the privileges and approved the Declaration of Rights of the Men and the Citizen.

**2) Answer the following questions using the information you have in the text:**

- Why is the French Revolution the most important revolution in History? Why did the impact of the French Revolution have on other countries?
- What people composed the bourgeoisie? Why were they discriminated against in society?
- Why was the economic situation of the French monarchy so terrible? What was the only solution for this situation?
- Why did the bourgeoisie decide to abandon the French parliament? What new organism did they create? What was their objective?
- What happened on the 14 of July? Why was it a very important event? How is it still celebrated today in France?
- When did the National Assembly take control of the government? What were the first decisions of the National Assembly?

**3) Say if the following sentences are true or false. If they are false, rewrite them correctly using the information in the text:**

- The French Revolution is important because it was the first time that the population of a country became independent from another country.
- The long time cause of the Revolution was the rivalry between the nobility and the clergy.
- The immediate causes of the Revolution were provoked by the economic crisis of France in the final years of the XVIII century.
- The king convoked a meeting of the French parliament to discuss the war against England.
- In the parliament were represented the members of the French capital city, Paris.
- The 14 of July, the people of Paris assaulted the Bastille fortress, the residence of the king in Paris.
- The first decision of the National Assembly was to execute the king, Luis XVI.

4) Complete the following table about the French Revolution stages using the information you have below:

STAGE	DATE	VOTING SYSTEM	PRINCIPAL ORGANISM	PRINCIPAL PERSONAGE	FINAL EVENT
CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY					
RADICAL REPUBLIC					
MODERATE REPUBLIC					
CONSULATE					
EMPIRE					

No elections // Universal democracy // Censitary democracy // Termidor's coup // 1789 - 1792 // Luis XVI // M. Robespierre // Napoleon's imperial coronation // 1799 - 1804 // Napoleon // Directory // 1795 - 1799 // Emperor // Censitary democracy // Consul // Tuileries' assault // 1792 - 1795 // National Assembly // Convention // Napoleon // Battle of Waterloo // 1804 - 1815 // Brumario's coup // Censitary democracy // Members of the Directory

Now describe the situation in the different stages of the French Revolution. Follow the example:

- The Moderate Republic.

The Moderate Republic is the stage of the French Revolution between 1794 and 1799. It began after the Democratic Republic with the Termidor's coup. In this stage the population elected the political representatives by the voting system of censitary democracy. The principal organism was the Directory and the principal protagonists were the members of the Directory. The Bourgeois Republic finished with the Brumario's coup. The next stage was the Consulate.

- The Radical Republic.

- The Consulate.

5) Answer the following questions about the Napoleonic Empire using the information in the map:



- Write a list with the name of the European countries invaded by Napoleon between 1799 and 1815. Which of these countries were directly controlled by the French Empire?
- What were the most important battles won by Napoleon? When and where did they take place?
- What were the most important battles lost by Napoleon? When and where did they take place?
- What two countries' invasions provoked the defeat of Napoleon? Why was he defeated in these two countries?

## 1) Read the following text:

### The importance of the French Revolution

The French Revolution is the most important revolution in \_\_\_\_\_. It is important because it was the first time that the \_\_\_\_\_ of a country tried to change the organization of society. The French Revolution was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the end of the Ancient Regime.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the French Revolution affected not only France because France was the most important and \_\_\_\_\_ country in the World in these years and many countries in Europe \_\_\_\_\_ the example of the French people. The French Revolution was the first step towards the end of injustice and inequality in society.

### The causes of the French Revolution

The causes of the French Revolution can be \_\_\_\_\_ in two types: long – time causes and immediate causes.

The long time cause of the Revolution was the \_\_\_\_\_ between the bourgeoisie and the privileged stratum (the \_\_\_\_\_ and the clergy). The bourgeoisie was a stratum composed of very rich people (\_\_\_\_\_ men and bankers), but they were discriminated against in society: they had to pay \_\_\_\_\_ and they had no privileges. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the bourgeoisie was to eliminate the Ancient Regime.

The immediate causes of the Revolution were provoked by the economic crisis of France in the final years of the \_\_\_\_\_ century. These final years were terrible for the \_\_\_\_\_: the crops were very \_\_\_\_\_ and the population of the country was \_\_\_\_\_. The economic situation of the French monarchy was also terrible because of the wars. The king, Louis XVI, was completely ruined, he needed money desperately. The only \_\_\_\_\_ for this economic ruin was to \_\_\_\_\_ new taxes.

### The first moments of the Revolution

Due to the bad economic situation, the king convoked a \_\_\_\_\_ of the French parliament to \_\_\_\_\_ new taxes. In this parliament were represented the members of the three strata: nobility, clergy and the third stratum (the bourgeoisie). Each stratum had only one \_\_\_\_\_ in the parliament, so the union of the privileged strata (nobility and clergy) made any change impossible in the tax system.

The bourgeoisie didn't accept the voting system and they decided to \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting and to create their \_\_\_\_\_ parliament: the National Assembly. Their objective was to finish with the Ancient Regime and to elaborate a \_\_\_\_\_ for the country.

This National Assembly was \_\_\_\_\_ supported by the French population. The \_\_\_\_\_ of July, the people of Paris assaulted the Bastille fortress, a prison which was the center of the \_\_\_\_\_ in Paris. It was a very important \_\_\_\_\_ because it was a symbolic victory of the non – privileged people against the Ancient Regime. The 14 of July is still today celebrated as the national day in France.

After the assault of the Bastille fortress, the National Assembly \_\_\_\_\_ control of the government and they took their first decisions: they \_\_\_\_\_ the privileges and approved the Declaration of Rights of the Men and the Citizen.