

French Revolution Knowledge Organiser

Keywords:	Definition:
Absolutism	Power of the Monarch shared with nobody else
Ancien Regime	Old system of government . society in France before the Revolution
Cahiers de doléances	Book of complaints the French were asked to write before Estates General met
Girondists	Less radical group of revolutionaries than the Jacobins
Constitution	A document which states the rules of a country
Controller General	Minister in charge of the King's finances in France
Counter Revolution	An attempt to turn back the changes made by a revolution
Coup d'état	A sudden change of government carried out by force
Dauphin	Heir to the French throne
Enlightenment	A new way of thinking in the Renaissance period (17-18 th Century)
Estates	All people in France belonged to one of three estates
Estates General	A special meeting of elected representatives of each of the three estates
Exiled	Required to leave the country by law as a punishment
Feudal	Feudal system where people received land in return for work for their lord / king
National Assembly	Breakaway group formed by France's Third Estate in June 1789
National Guard	A kind of citizens' police force
Parlement	Special French law courts where new laws were registered
Republic	A country which has no monarch
Sans Culottes	Men who fought in the revolution who were not part of the bourgeoisie
Regicide	Killing a monarch after a trial
Bourgeoisie	Very well off people (middle classes), particularly merchants, doctors and lawyers
Nobility	The ruling class – Dukes, Marquis, Count, Viscount
Tricoloe	The new flag of France following the Revolution
Bastille	The fortress / prison that was stormed by the Parisian mob starting the Revolution
Clergy	Higher members of The Church (Pope, Archbishop, Bishops)
Jacobins	A radical group of French revolutionaries who used violence to defend the revolution
Socialism	Political and economic system based on equality for all
Guillotine	New weapon for executing criminals by decapitation
Liberté, égalité, fraternité	Liberty (freedom), Equality and Brotherhood – French motto from the Revolution
Revolution	A change which means that nothing will ever be the same again
Directory	The new government following the death of King Louis XVI in 1795
Tithe	Tax of 10% paid to The Church
Aristocracy	Nobility and Royalty

Key Dates:	Event:
5 th May 1789	The Estates General meet
17 th June 1789	Formation of the National Assembly
20 th June 1789	Tennis Court Oath – to continue meeting until the king recognises the National Assembly
14 th July 1789	A Parisian mob storm the Bastille
26 th August 1789	National Assembly passes the Declaration of the Rights of Man
5 th October 1789	Women's march on Versailles
1792	France declares war on Austria and Prussia
21 Jan 1793	Execution of King Louis XVI
2 nd Nov 1795	The Directory set up (First Republic)

Key people:	Role:	Key people:	Role:
Louis XVI	King 1774-1792	Necker	Finance minister sacked by Louis
Mary Antoinette	King Louis' Austrian Queen	Abbé Sieyès	Author of what is Third Estate
Napoleon Bonaparte	Emperor of France post Revolution	Calonne	Minister who tried to tax nobility
Max Robespierre	Leader during 'The Terror'	Danton	Opposed Robespierre - killed