

What happened after Bastille?



Where is King Louis XVI while all this was going on?

Louis was out hunting in the grounds of Versailles during the storming of Bastille, it wasn't until later that night, around 11pm he was woken by one of his courtiers telling him the full story. Louis asked "was it a revolt?", "no sire, it is a revolution" replied the courtier. Louis quickly realised he had lost Paris and could no longer use force against the National Assembly.

What would you advise the king to do after hearing the news? Remember he is the king by divine right! Should he back down to the Assembly or fight them?



The next day, Louis went to the Assembly and denied he had planned any action against the National Assembly. He promised to withdraw his troops from Paris, pleasing the deputies. Everyone felt relieved that the King had come to his senses after being misled by evil advisors. The Assembly cheered for King Louis.

Declaration of the Rights of Man



During the summer following the Storming of the Bastille, the National Assembly began to write a new constitution which would protect the rights of the people and limit the powers of the king.

On 5th August, the Assembly abolished feudalism, freeing France's peasantry from the obligations to the nobility.

On 26th of August, the Assembly passed the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the citizen, explaining the rights to which all French men are entitled.

- Freedom of speech / Free press
- Sovereignty over Divine Right of kings
- Social equality amongst citizens
- Ending special rights for nobility / clergy

Summarise the work of the National Assembly and the Declaration of the Rights of Man in the weeks following the Storming of the Bastille.

Only three and a half years later the deputies voted to execute Louis XVI.



Why did the Revolutionaries lose trust in King Louis XVI?

- The revolutionaries couldn't work out if the King supported or opposed the Revolution.
- In June 1791 he and his family escaped from his palace, this wasn't a good idea
- He had left a letter 'to the French people' attacking the Revolution and the National Assembly
- When he was caught, they knew they could no longer trust the King
- Despite the fact that the National Assembly still wanted Louis as king in this new world, he refused to accept the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen and the end of feudalism



Following rumours that Austrian Emperor intended to invade France and restore Louis XVI's absolutist rule, the Assembly declared war on Austria and Prussia in June 1792.

The Austrian Emperor was Louis' wife Marie Antoinette's brother and she was hated in France.

Do you think Louis still has a chance to survive this Revolution?

By 1794, the Revolutionary Army was fighting to protect its borders against Prussia, Austria and Britain. It was also fighting a civil war against counter-revolutionaries inside France. Anti Catholic revolutionaries attacked churches. Normal government, such as tax collection had totally broken down.

Could the revolution be running out of steam? Does Louis just need to be patient and see this period out? Should he accept the new constitution?

Draw this table in your books, making notes as we make our way to Louis' execution...

Summary of events	Why the Revolutionaries turned against the king
Use this space to make a summary of the events	Use this space to explain they Revolutionaries turned against the king

1. The Women's march on Versailles

The Women's March on Versailles was an important event at the start of the French Revolution. It gave the revolutionaries confidence in the power of the people over the king.

5th October, 1789 France, the main food of the commoners was bread. A poor French economy had led to a scarcity of bread and high prices. The people were hungry. In Paris, women would go to the market to buy bread for their families, only to find that what little bread was available was very expensive. The women had heard about a feast and banquet the King had had earlier in the week.



The women would march to Versailles to demand the King's own bread. By the time they arrived there was 6000 of them.

The King agreed to give the women bread from his stores and promised more in the future. He also agreed to the Declaration of the Rights of Man and ending Feudalism! Louis sent his soldiers to bed thinking it was all over...

At 4am the Queen awoke to shouts of "Where is she, where is the whore? We'll ring her neck!". A large group broke into the palace, hacking 2 of the guards heads off with an axe. They smashed into the Queen's bed chamber and stabbed her bed with swords and pikes. The Queen had already escaped to the King's bed chamber. The next day the mob demanded the King return to Paris, this would be the last time he'd see his Palace of Versailles.

2. Prisoners in Paris

Whilst imprisoned in a run down palace in the centre of Paris, the royal family were allowed generous living expenses and Louis was even allowed to hunt. Nevertheless the King was forced to accept three huge limits on his power:

1. He had to surrender his bodyguards
2. He had to accept the new constitution agreed by the Assembly
3. He had to accept that he now ruled under the law and not by divine right

What would you advise the king at this point?

Louis XVI accepted these terms, but many thought it was grudgingly. Over the next few months the King and the revolutionaries became bitterly divided again, this time over the church. The Assembly decided that the clergy should be chosen by the people, but The Pope objected. The Assembly then forced the priests to take an oath to the new constitution, half refused. The King supported them, once again putting himself against the revolutionaries.

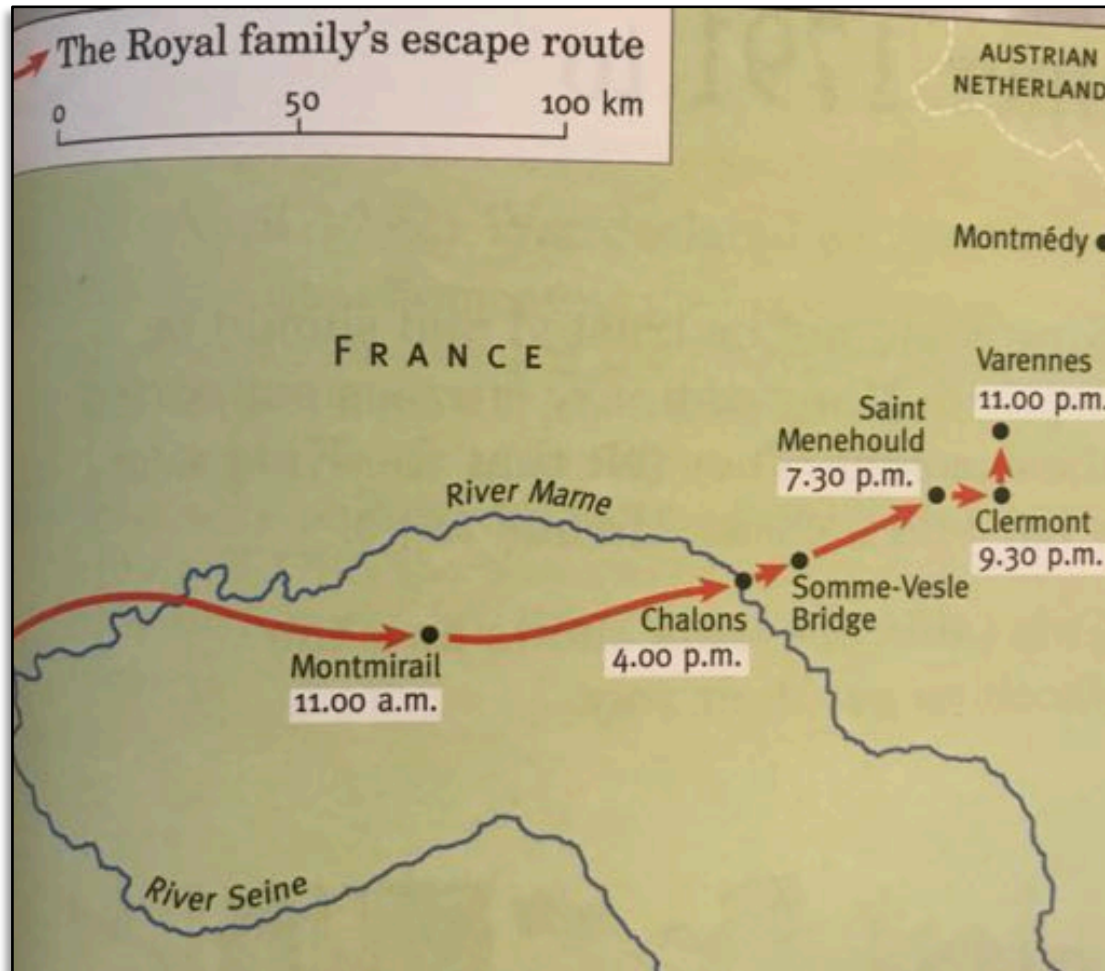
“You are a fat pig. Your appetite costs the people 25 millions a year”



Why do you think the people are so angry?

3. The Escape

June 1791, the King could see no way out of this religious trouble, he grew increasingly worried about the safety of his family. Louis and Marie Antoinette decided now was the time to escape. They would get to Montmédy and get support from foreign armies in the Austrian Netherlands.



On the night of 20th June 1791 the royal family made their escape, dressing their son in a girls dress and bonnet. At first the journey went well making good progress unnoticed.

Then the horses reign snapped and needed repaired, it was here a young man named Drouet thought he recognised the King.

Drouet rode to Varennes forcing the King into a house asking to see their passports.

Louis said "There is no longer a king in France"

What do you think Louis means by this?



The journey back to Paris was horrific, hot and dusty. Hordes of hostile people surrounded the carriage, shouting insults and spitting. A group of men looked in at the Queen and shouted “Look at the bitch. It’s no good her showing us her child. Everyone knows it isn’t his”.

After 5 days of travelling, they arrived in Paris. The National Guard lined the streets and had warned whoever cheers the King shall be flogged, whoever insults him shall be hanged.

What do you think it would have been like in the streets of Paris when they arrived?