

A cartoon illustration of King Louis XVI standing on the left, wearing a brown coat, white cravat, and yellow breeches. He has a stern expression. To his right is a large, woven basket. Inside the basket, a family is visible: a man with glasses and a woman with a headscarf, both looking up at the king with expressions of concern or pleading.

Remember...

Did King Louis XVI deserve his fate?

How similar was the French Revolution to the English Civil War 1649

How similar was the French Revolution to the protests and rebellions we learnt about in year 7 (Peasant's Revolt, Pilgrimage of Grace)

What can you see and hear
in your mind when you
look at this painting?



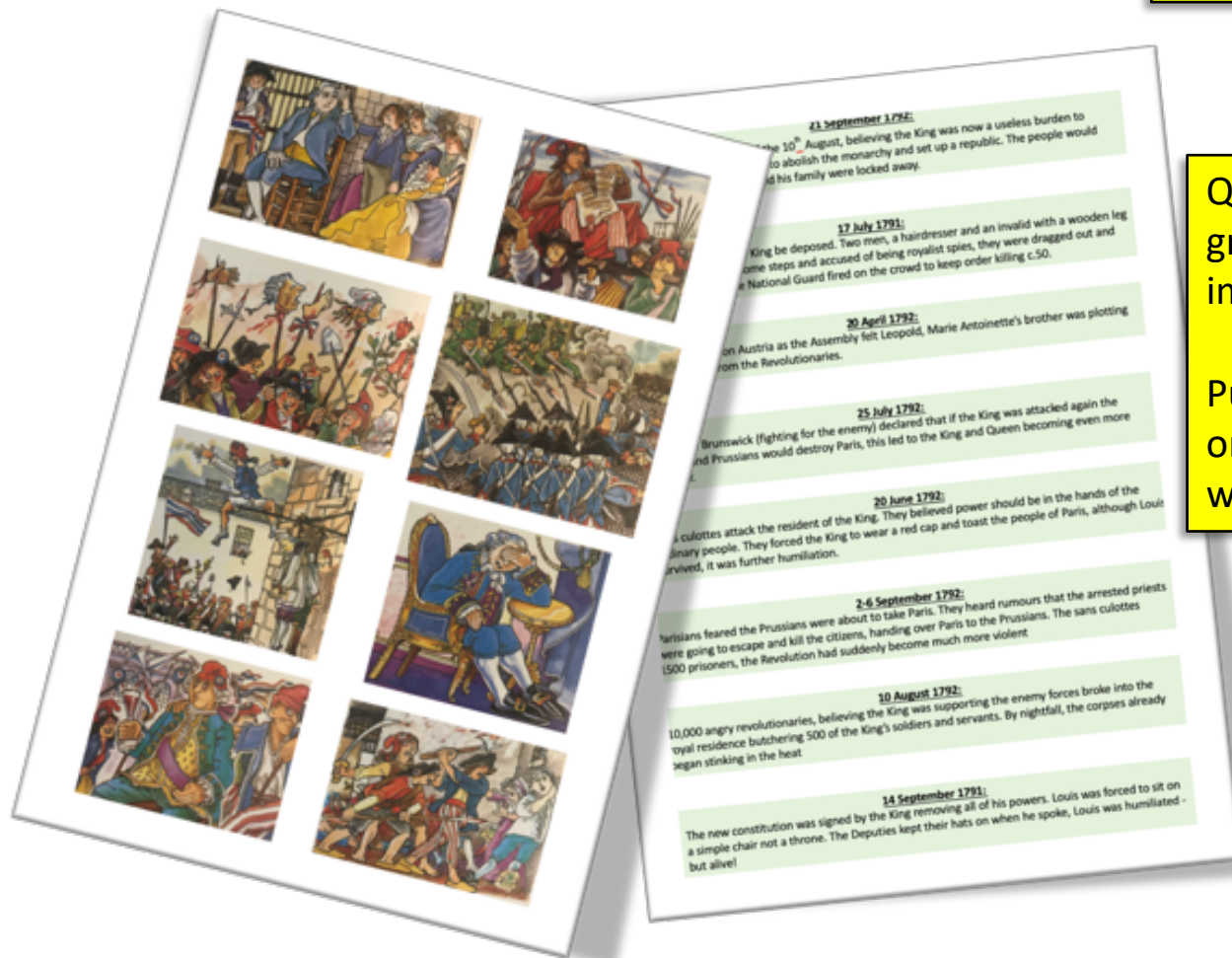
The King is deposed... what next?

Even now, there were still deputies who wanted the King to have a place in the new constitution (albeit with less power), these deputies were called Girondins. On the other hand, there were those more radical who couldn't trust the King any more and felt he was a liar and a cheat and had to go, these were called Jacobins.

What do you think?

Quickly and quietly cut out the green story boxes and the images.

Put the events in the correct order and match up the picture with the events



Steps to the bloc

17 July 1791:

A petition demanding the King be deposed. Two men, a hairdresser and an invalid with a wooden leg were discovered under some steps and accused of being royalist spies, they were dragged out and hanged on the spot! The National Guard fired on the crowd to keep order killing c.50.

14 September 1791:

The new constitution was signed by the King removing all of his powers. Louis was forced to sit on a simple chair not a throne. The Deputies kept their hats on when he spoke, Louis was humiliated - but alive!

20 April 1792:

War was declared on Austria as the Assembly felt Leopold, Marie Antoinette's brother was plotting to save the King from the Revolutionaries.

10 August 1792:

10,000 angry revolutionaries, believing the King was supporting the enemy forces broke into the royal residence butchering 500 of the King's soldiers and servants. By nightfall, the corpses already began stinking in the heat

25 July 1792:

The Duke of Brunswick (fighting for the enemy) declared that if the King was attacked again the Austrians and Prussians would destroy Paris, this led to the King and Queen becoming even more unpopular.

20 June 1792:

Sans culottes attack the resident of the King. They believed power should be in the hands of the ordinary people. They forced the King to wear a red cap and toast the people of Paris, although Louis survived, it was further humiliation.

2-6 September 1792:

Parisians feared the Prussians were about to take Paris. They heard rumours that the arrested priests were going to escape and kill the citizens, handing over Paris to the Prussians. The sans culottes 1500 prisoners, the Revolution had suddenly become much more violent

21 September 1792:

6 weeks after the massacre of the 10th August, believing the King was now a useless burden to France, a new Assembly voted to abolish the monarchy and set up a republic. The people would elect their leaders. The King and his family were locked away.

You have been given an account of the King's execution, read it carefully and answer the following questions...

In what ways did the revolutionaries show a lack of respect for King Louis XVI on the day of his execution?

What did King Louis attempt to say before he died? What do you think Louis thought about his execution? Fair or unfair – explain your thoughts fully

Where did the execution take place?

Describe, as if you were in the crowd watching, King Louis XVI's execution

At 5am on 21st January 1793, Louis XVI, King of France was woken by one of his servants. The King dressed in simple clothes and attended Mass. Outside, he heard the beating of drums. Louis said, calmly, "I expect it's the National Guard beginning to assemble". He sat by the stove in his room and waited. At around 8am the soldiers arrived. The King asked them if his servant could cut his hair to spare him the humiliation of having his hair cropped on the scaffold. They refused.

The King walked to the waiting green carriage. He turned once or twice towards the tower as if to say goodbye. For 2 hours, the King's carriage made its way through the streets of Paris to the Place de la Revolution. It was a damp, foggy morning, but thousands of people lined the streets. They waited silently. In front of the carriage marched the drummers and line after line of National Guardsmen with muskets and pikes on their shoulders. The revolutionaries were taking no chances.

At 10am the procession arrived at the scaffold. Charles Sanson, the executioner, and his assistants, cut off the hair which grew over the King's neck. They tied Louis' hands behind his back. The King walked across the platform, and tried to address his people. "I die innocent of all the crimes of which I have been charged. I pardon those who have brought about my death and I pray that the blood you are about to shed may never be required of France..." At that moment a roll of drums drowned out whatever else the King was about to say.

Sanson and his assistants strapped Louis face down on the plank of the guillotine. The blade hissed down. The king let out a terrible scream. His head was not severed by the first blow because his neck was too fat. When it finally fell into the basket, the executioner pulled the head out and showed it dripping with blood to the people.

The King's head was placed between his legs and the body was taken to a cemetery in Paris. It was placed in a plain wooden coffin used for the poorest of funerals. The coffin was buried in a grave said to be 10 feet deep.

Watch the following clips very carefully, making a note that supports anything we've found out so far today...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCeRnbhvSnk>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25xajfZj1RI>

“The blood of the murdered, crying for vengeance”

James Gillray, February 16th 1793



Stick your copy of this painting in the middle of your page and annotate around it what is happening, then answering the following questions...

What impression do you get from the title of this painting? Is it for or against the king? What evidence is there for your idea?

“Whither-, O Whither shall my Blood ascend for Justice? – my Throne is seized on, by my Murderers; my Brothers are driven into exile; – my unhappy Wife & innocent Infants are shut up in the horrors of a Dungeon; – while Robbers & Assassins are sheathing their Daggers in the bowels of my Country! [...]”

Read the text above, from the painting, how does James Gillray present King Louis’ behaviour before he died? What does he suggest Louis was saying? Was he calm?

King Louis XVI was executed January 21st 1793, how long after his execution was this painting made?



So, now we've set the scene, we need to go back to 1789 for the start of the Revolution...



Before we finish today, thinking back to year 7, make a list of the causes of...

The Peasant's Revolt:

- Taxes (economic)
- Social (people)
- Political (Government)

The Pilgrimage of Grace:

- Religion – destroying the Monasteries
- Social (people)
- Political (Government)

The English Civil War:

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-
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Remember one of our key enquiries for this unit... how similar was the French Revolution to these events in Britain?