

The

French
2nd Lesson:
The Revolution

Revolution
n

Some Quick Vocabulary:

- **Revolution: the overthrow of a government in favor of a new system**

● الثورة: الإطاحة بحكومة لصالح نظام جديد

- বিপ্লব: নতুন আদেশের পক্ষে সরকার উৎখাত

Vocabulary

- **Clergy: the group of people that have permission to perform religious duties by the Christian Church; priests, bishops, archbishops, etc.**
- رجال الدين :مجموعة من الناس الذين لديهم إذن لأداء واجبات دينية من قبل الكنيسة المسيحية ؛ الكهنة والأساقفة والرهبان ، إلخ.
- **Clergy:** খ্রিস্টান চার্চ কর্তৃক একদল লোককে তাদের ধর্মীয় দায়িত্ব পালনের অনুমতি দেওয়া হয়েছিল; যাজক, বিশপ, সন্ন্যাসী, ইত্যাদি

Vocabulary

- **Nobility: the old, wealthy families of Europe that enjoy considerable privileges in society**

● النبلاء: العائلات الثرية القديمة في أوروبا التي تتمتع بامتيازات كبيرة في المجتمع

- **Nobility:]:** ইউরোপের ধনী প্রাচীন পরিবার যারা সমাজে বহু সুযোগ সুবিধা ভোগ করেছিল

Vocabulary

- **Commoners: those people without much wealth and privilege that constitute the majority of French society before the revolution**

● عامة الناس : أولئك الذين ليس لديهم الكثير من الثروة والامتيازات التي تشكل غالبية المجتمع الفرنسي قبل الثورة

- সাধারণ মানুষ: ফরাসি সমাজে এমন লোকদের দল যাদের কাছে খুব বেশি সম্পদ বা অধিকার ছিল না

Bell Ringer: Answer in the Chat Section

What were the 3 Estates of France in the years before the French

Revolution?

1st Estate: the Clergy



one vote

2nd Estate: the Nobility



one vote

3rd Estate: the Commoners



one vote

Quick Review: Causes of the French Revolution

- **The Estates System:** The Third Estate resented being overtaxed and powerless in the state and grew increasingly angry at the nobility.
- **Enlightenment Ideas:** New views about power and authority in government caused many to question divine right and absolute monarchy in favor of **constitutionalism**.
- **Economic Crisis:** The Government's overspending on itself and on fruitless wars had bankrupt the state leading to excessive debt which could no longer be paid without serious reforms to the tax system.
- **Weak Leadership:** **Louis XVI** was indecisive and allowed matters to drift. He paid little attention to his government advisers, and had little patience for the details of governing.
- **The American Revolution:** The **American revolution** inspired many in France who saw it as the fulfillment of Enlightenment Ideology. It also frustrated many because France had fought and paid for the revolution which gave Americans freedom and rights, privileges the French themselves did not enjoy.

The Revolution

- **Economic Crisis, 1780s:**


- **The 3rd Estate could not pay any more taxes, but wars had to be paid for!**
- **Where was Louis going to get the money??? Any Ideas? Who else in France could pay taxes?**
 - **The 2nd Estate: the Nobility**



The Revolution

- **When the situation became dire and France was on the verge of collapse, King Louis asked the 2nd Estate to pay some taxes from their enormous wealth. How do you think they responded?**

- **NO!**



Good Sirs,
would you
kindly pay
some taxes?

NO! How will
we pay for
our fancy
shoes??!?!?

That is the job
of the
commoners!



The Revolution: The Estates General

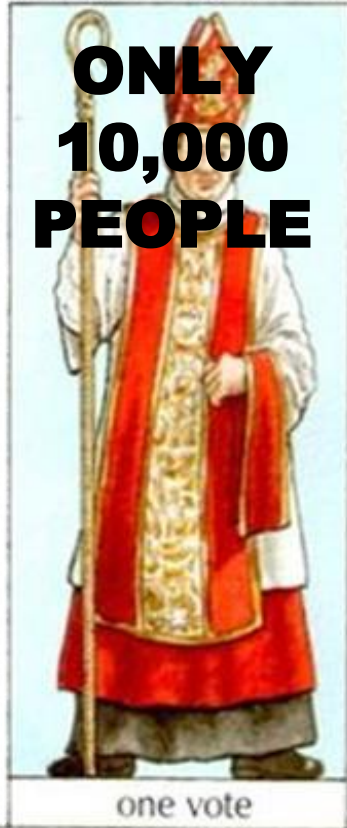
- **Louis had one last option on where to go to get the money he so desperately needed. The Estates General.**
- **In French history, the Estates General was a collection of representatives from all 3 Estates: the clergy, the nobility, and the commoners. It had no real power, but would give advice to the king, if he wanted it.**
- **If the king called for the Estates General to meet, they would come together at a central location and give advice to the king based on petitions from each Estate.**
- **If the king called for a vote on an issue, each state would get one vote. The 1st and 2nd Estates would normally vote together because they had similar interests, leaving the 3rd Estate without real voting power.**

Let me show how unfair the voting system was:

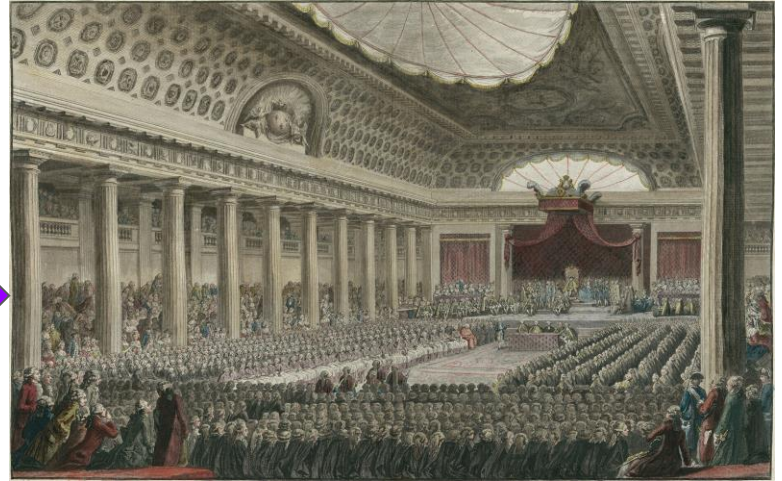
1st Estate: the Clergy

2nd Estate: the Nobility

3rd Estate: the Commoners



- **Louis XVI called the Estates General meeting in May of 1789. The reason was to discuss taxes to help France get out of debt and pay for wars.**
- **The representatives from the 3rd Estate, the commoners, were excited to go to the meeting because they saw it as an opportunity to remake France into a Constitutional Monarchy where the king shared his power with the people.**
- **The 3rd Estate suggested 2 things to the other 2 Estates:**
 - **Join the 3rd Estate and reform the government by making the king share power**
 - **Change the voting so that each person got a vote, not just each Estate getting 1 vote (that would give the 3rd Estate a clear advantage because they had more representatives than the 1st and 2nd Estate combined)**



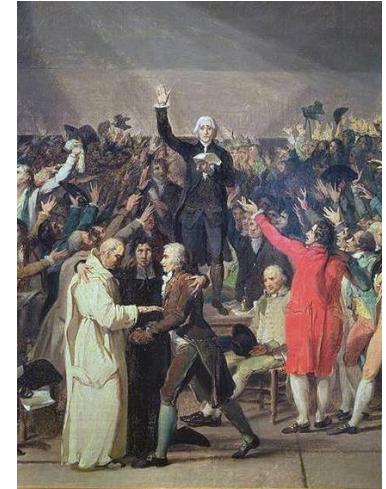
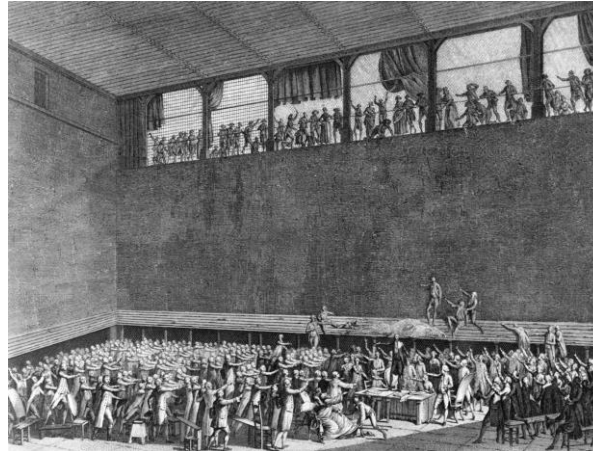
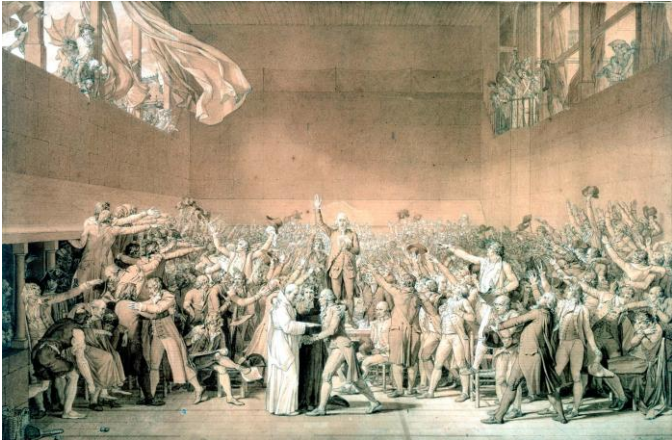
The Revolution: The Estates General

- **Of course, the nobility rejected the offer of the commoners. Why would they want to give up some of their voting power and overall power to join the 3rd Estate?**
- **Undaunted by the 2nd Estate's decision to not join them, the 3rd Estate moved forward with their plan. This is where the French Revolution begins.**

The Revolution: the Estates General

- **The 3rd Estate decided to form their own government.**
- **They called themselves the National Assembly.**
- **They promised to make laws for the common people of France.**
- **How could a group of commoners be so bold and brave to declare themselves the government of the people of France? What would the king do?**

- **Remember, Louis was a bad king. He did not have the respect of anyone in France. He decided to lock the 3rd Estate out of the Estates General meeting.**
- **The 3rd Estate decided they would continue to meet and found an empty tennis court where they promised to continue their rebuilding of the French government and creation of a new constitution.**
 - **This promise they called the Tennis Court Oath**



- **The king's army began to surround the palace and the city of Paris.**
- **Rumors began to circulate through Paris that the king was going to arrest the members of the 3rd Estate and start killing French citizens.**
- **Out of anger and fear, the people of Paris attacked a prison called the Bastille in July, 1789.**
- **They stole weapons and ammunition and killed all of the guards.**
They marched through Paris with the heads of the soldiers on spear.
- **Paris now belonged to the people.**



The Revolution:

- Around this time, the National Assembly began to create laws and rules for the new government.
- In August of 1789, the National Assembly created a revolutionary document: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
- This document, based on Enlightenment ideas, laid out 17 rights of every male citizen, most notably that all people are born with natural rights that no government can take away:
 - Life, liberty, property, freedom of speech, etc.
- VIDEO!



- The summer of 1789 was chaotic. Even though the National Assembly was taking over, the king was still in power and the problems of France still existed.
- Peasants began attacking the nobility, killing them and burning their houses to the ground.
- By October, a food shortage in Paris resulted in angry peasant women marching to the king's palace and taking Louis hostage.
- Louis and his wife were marched back to Paris and held prisoner for the remainder of their lives.
- VIDEO!



Tomorrow, in our story:

- **Louis loses something. It sits on top of your shoulder and rhymes with bed.**
- **The Reign of Terror**

Homework:

- **Please review the PowerPoint**
- **Watch the videos in the “Activities” section**
- **Do something nice for your family**