

Before the revolution was France an absolute monarchy or republic?

It was an absolute monarchy; King Louis had complete power and control over France. Though there was a kind of parliament, called the estates general, the King had the ultimate power.

What is an absolute monarchy?

Where only the monarchy (the king or queen) runs the country: there is no parliament to represent the people.

What is a republic?

Where a government makes decisions for its country's people; no authority of a king or queen.

Why was King Louis XVI considered a weak king?

He was not interested in governing; he was only interested in lavishly spending the country's money while his own people were starving. He was ignorant of his country's problems, was disconnected from the people and did nothing to improve the weak economy, which held back profitable business.

Who was King Louis married to?

Marie Antoinette from Austria

Who were the aristocrats?

The private upper class

Who were the bourgeoisie?

The newly emerging middle class; an educated class
people often involved in business

Who were the Philosophes?

A new group of philosophers who had new ideas about
society, democracy and science; women were vocal part
of this group.

What were the economic causes leading to the French revolution?

- The tax system was unfair (only the poorest citizen w paying taxes).
- The king personal spending was huge.
- The American war of independence cost France a lot while the country already had a huge debt.
- The high cost of bread.

What were the political causes leading to the French revolution?

King spending money- the king was disinterested in the country's problem with business, jobs starvation. Maria Antoinette ruled the country more than her husband and used favoritism as her decision-making, the American revolution and the English revolution both abolished the absolute monarchy; now this notion was spreading to France.

What were the social causes leading to the French revolution?

Vast poverty and hunger, lack of jobs, poor were taxed the heaviest. Philosophes and the bourgeoisie began to question the competency of the king; they also believed in the concept of democracy. Women were frustrated with the high cost of bread.

What was the Estates General?

A kind of parliament which existed prior to the revolution it met very infrequently and could be overruled by the king

What were the 3 estates of the estates general

- First Estate: the clergy (church)
- Second Estate: aristocrats (upper class)
- Third Estate: bourgeoisie (middle class)

Which 2 estates of states general voted as a block, giving the twice the power of the remaining estate?

The First and Second Estates.

What was the national assembly?

A new government that was formed when the third estate was frustrated with their lack of power; they broke with the other estates to form a new government.

What was the Tennis Court Oath?

When the third estate broke from the Estates General to form a new government it swore it would continue to meet until the new government actually was operating in France; this oath was taken in the Tennis court of the palace, as they had no where to meet.

This event officially marks the start to the revolution, where a mob attacked the royal prison to free political prisoners.

The fall of the Bastille

What were the declaration of the rights of man and citizen?

A document that came out of the French Revolution which was a major step towards democracy; it guaranteed the rights and freedom of the citizens and would limit the power of the government

What did the revolution do to feudalism?
(Serfs under the local lord)

It ended; everyone was now free to own a property

What happened to the royal family as they attempted to flee France and escape to Austria?

They were stopped near the border of Austria (Which they were fleeing), captured and imprisoned

Explain the interest of the 3 leveled of revolution: the radicals, the moderates, and the monarchists

- The radicals: wanted France to be a republic with no monarchy.
- The moderates: wanted France to be a constitutional monarchy (a monarch sharing power with parliament)
- The monarchists: wanted a monarchy (king or queen) to rule France

Who were the San Culottes?

They were the poor of the citizens and were very radical and violent in the revolution; they resented that bourgeoisie was getting more power in the revolution while the lower classes were getting nothing, they killed many who didn't seem radical enough

Who were Marat, Danton and Robespierre?

The radical revolution leaders

What was the National Convention?

The new revolutionary government which replaced the king

What happened to King Louis and his wife?

They were guillotined

What was the reign of terror?

An entire year where the new revolutionary government (the national convention) passed harsh intimidation laws, 37,000 guillotined during this year for suspicious if being against the revolution.

Who was Robespierre?

The ruler of France after the death of the king though he believed in democratic ideals of the revolution initially, he ultimately became a dictator he also sent thousands to the guillotine, though initially did not believe in capital punishment

What eventually happened to Robespierre?

The national convention gets worried that Robespierre will start killing them off, and decided that he needs to be guillotined because he seems out of control.

What was the Directory?

The new governmentally formed after the death Robespierre; more of a voice given to middle class and those who own property in this government

What is a democracy?

Government by the people (or their elected representatives), every citizen has a voice in how country is governed.

Why was France not considered a full democracy after The French Revolution?

It was a step toward democracy, but the middle class was given power and not to the lower class

True or False did France become a Republic after the revolution?

True: It was not ruled by a monarch