

THE OLD FEUDAL
SYSTEM OF
FRANCE BEFORE
THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION
WAS CALLED
THE "ANCIENT
REGIME"

Short Answer

Type Answer
Here

1. How many Estates
was France divided
into?

2. What year did the
Jacobins take over?

3. What is the word
for when you owe
money?

4. What year did
France become &
stay a republic?

5. Which Estate paid
the most in taxes?

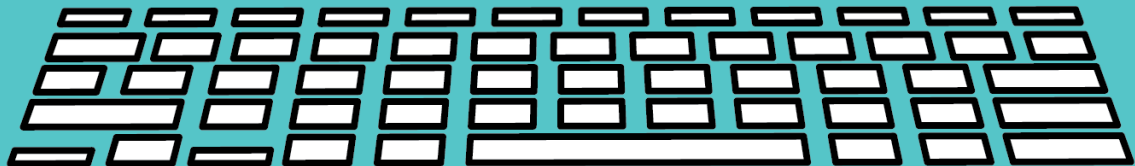
6. What day is
French National
Day?

7. What was
Bonaparte's first
name?

8. What was the fort
used as a prison
called?



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. How many Estates was France divided into?		9. France became a ____ (ruled by the people).	
2. What year did the Jacobins take power?		10. In 1793 the queen was ____-Antoinette.	
3. What is the word for when you owe money?		11. Bonaparte declared himself the ____ of France.	
4. What year did France become & stay a republic?		12. The ____ Estate was made up of ____ (church leaders).	
5. Which Estate paid the most in taxes?		13. After the Jacobins grew in power, they called the ____ power.	
6. What day is French National Day?		14. France had recently fought in the ____ Years War.	
7. What was Bonaparte's first name?		15. The Third Estate broke away & created the "National ____".	
8. What was the fort used as a prison called?		16. France was divided based on ____ status.	



FRENCH REVOLUTION

Before the French Revolution, France was a country ruled by a king and nobles. The people of France rose up on July 14, 1789, to take control, and later overthrew the monarchy (king) and became a republic. This meant that the country was ruled by the people.

France was divided into three estates, or groups, based on social status. The First Estate was made up of clergymen and church leaders. The Second Estate was made up of nobles and landowners who lived in luxury (expensive) lives. The Third Estate was made up of commoners. They were the hardest working group, who had to pay most of the taxes.

France had recently fought two wars including the American Revolution and the Seven Years War in Europe, which had the country go into debt (to owe money). As a result, new taxes were placed on crops and the price of food was very high. Roughly 97% of France's population struggled to survive and the remaining 3% lived a life of wealth. The commoners of the Third Estate were fed up with how they were being treated. They were outraged by the "gabelle", a tax on salt. The problems resulted in King Louis XVI calling for a large assembly of the Estates-General to decide what to do.

The king and the first two Estates would not make any changes to help the Third Estate. In defiance (resistance), the Third Estate broke away and established the "National Assembly". The National Assembly would work to make changes on behalf of the commoners. The National Assembly included 745 members known as deputies.

On July 14, 1789, 1,000 men broke into a fort used as a prison in Paris called Bastille. The group helped seven prisoners escape who were being held there by the government. This was a show of power and marked the start of the French Revolution, known as the "Storming of the Bastille". Other parts of France began to form groups and overthrow nobles. Some nobles tried to flee (leave) the country. The Revolution spread all over France

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and lasted for 10 years. Today in France, July 14 is celebrated as French National Day, similar to America's Independence Day.

In September of 1791, a constitutional monarchy was established. One month prior, the National Assembly approved the Declaration of Rights of Man. The document said all people would have equal rights and are born free. Nobles were no longer more powerful than anyone else. It stated that peasants (the lowest social class) would no longer work for free for noblemen. The Assembly also removed the tax on crops. Many clergy and nobles refused to follow this new constitution and were killed by the Assembly. The new constitution, plan of government, abolished (got rid of) feudalism. Under the old feudal system, people worked and fought for nobles who gave them protection and land in return.

The National Assembly kept the king to rule alongside them. But in 1793, they imprisoned the King and Queen Marie-Antoinette and took over the government completely.

Power was taken from different groups over the years. A group called the Jacobins took over in 1793 and brought what is called the Reign of Terror. This time period was brutal and many people arrested and killed. It was led by a man named Maximilien Robespierre. The king and queen were also killed during this time on charges of high treason and crimes against the state.

Finally in 1794, the leaders of the Jacobins were arrested, and an end came to this violent time. The following year a group called The Directory took over. They were not as extreme like the Jacobins. In fact, they were not very strong and only lasted about 5 years before being overthrown by a general named Napoleon Bonaparte. This marked the end of the French Revolution.

Napoleon became the new leader of France and grew extremely powerful. He eventually declared himself Emperor of France, which brought France back to being ruled by kings and queens for the next 70 years. In 1871, France became a republic again and stayed that way.

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