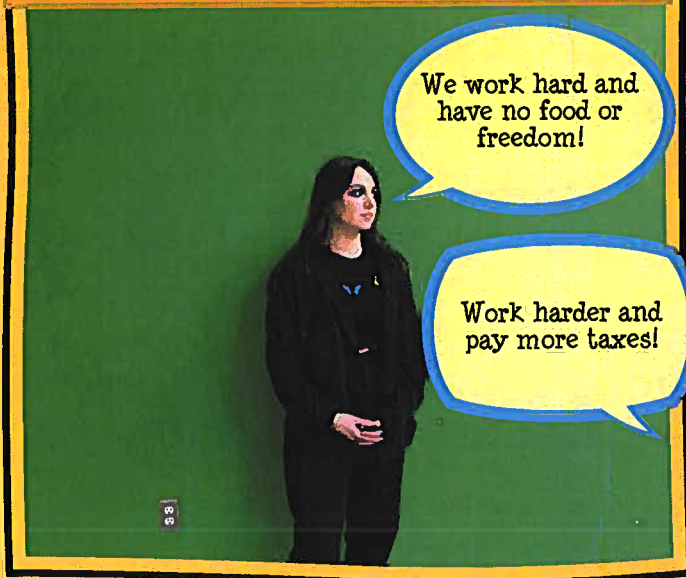




THE FRENCH REVOLUTION!

The French Revolution!

Cause #1: French society was unfair to the peasants. They paid all the taxes and struggled to survive



Cause #2: The Royalty was living extravagantly and off the backs of the working poor.



Cause #3: The Philosophes met in coffee shops (called Salons) to discuss ideas about society and politics, and solutions to social problems. Many wrote plays, diaries, novels and Operas in order to show what they were thinking. Their ideas inspired people to act.



Not enough!
Give me more!

But this is 80% of everything I have!

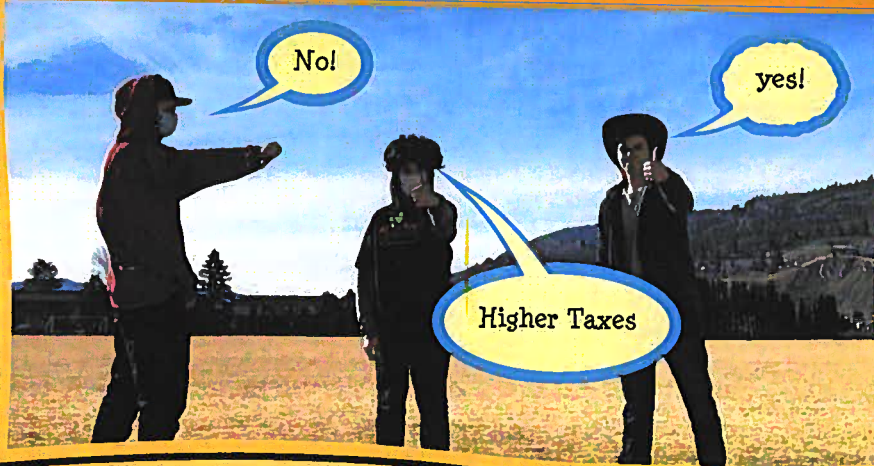
After two terrible winters, the wheat crops failed causing bread prices to rise. People became very frustrated when they couldn't afford basic necessities.

There's nothing left!



France was also broke because they spent a lot of money on the Seven Years War and the American Revolution. France was brutally bankrupt.

Louis called the Estates General to ask them to discuss how to raise taxes. The unfair bloc voting caused the 1st and 2nd estate to always outvote the heavily populated 3rd Estate, which was unfair.



No!

yes!

Higher Taxes

Frustrated by the meeting, the 3rd Estate left demanding a new government and swore on a tennis court that they will not move until a new one is formed. This happened when Louis locked them out of the Estates General.

We are not leaving until a new government is formed!



Tear it down!

Break it!



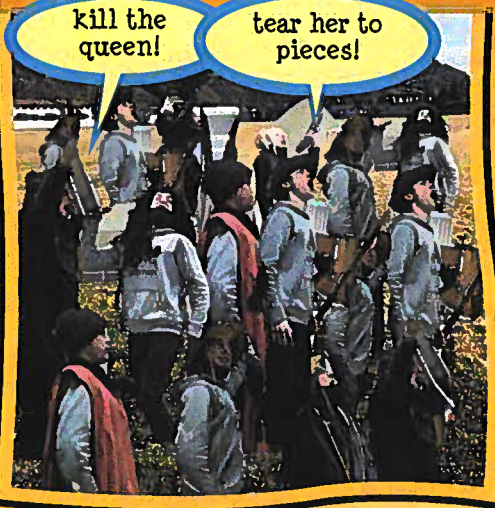
Burn it down!



When bread prices continued to rise and people worried the king would try to stop the revolution, the people stormed the Bastille prison, chopped off the governor's head and tore it down brick by brick.

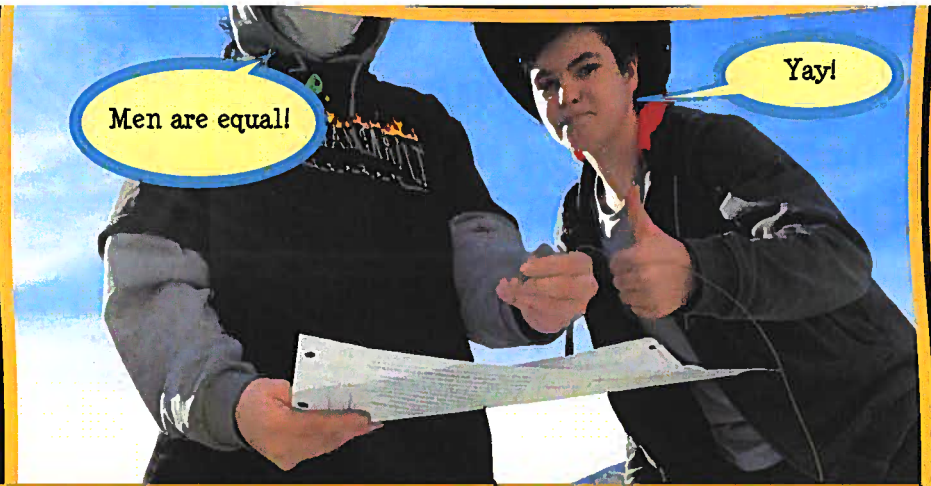
In August of 1789, people were hit with something called the Great Fear. Determined that the revolution would continue, peasants stormed Noble chateaux in the countryside and burned their house and feudal certificates to the ground.

Thousands of women marched to Versailles to kill the Queen. Luckily she escaped and the king, without fighting, agreed to return to Paris.



kill the queen!

tear her to pieces!



Men are equal!

Yay!

The king then signed the Declaration of the Rights of Man, a document that gave French men equal rights.

In 1791, Marie Antoinette, Louis and their children tried escaping to Austria in disguise. They were caught and then taken to jail. King Louis had once more proven himself untrustworthy.



It's the King and Queen!

Next, all the countries around France declared war to take advantage of the instability and to try to put the king back on the throne. The government decided the king must die before this could happen.



no you won't!

We will destroy you!

The king is dead!

Marie Antoinette died on October 16, 1793.



Found guilty of treason, King Louis died January 21, 1793 because he was a terrible king.



Yay! She's dead!

oh boy, never saw this coming!

Over the next year, Robespierre would kill anyone who was suspected of being against the revolution. The Reign of Terror would only end with his death.



A government called the Directory replaced Robespierre, but, with military support, it was dissolved and Napoleon Bonaparte was declared First Consul (and later Emperor) of France.



What can I say?
"The world begged me to govern it"

Many historians argue about if the rise of Napoleon was the end of the French Revolution. However, while Napoleon was not a democratic leader, he did spread the ideas of the revolution throughout Europe. Today, the French Revolution is the inspiration for every revolution that has followed and it remains one of the most important events in Western history.