**An Exploration of the French Revolution**

The following webquest is an exploration of how we as historians analyze the past. Our purpose today is to research, rationalize, and reflect on how the French Revolution has been interpreted, and construct an argument of our own.

***Introduction***   **By 1789, the social landscape of France had changed dramatically. The feudal system had delivered a huge national debt, and inflation was on the rise. The ideals of the enlightenment and the American Revolution were discussed in secret among those who advocated for change.  No longer could France's subjects be easily categorized into traditional social classes. The rise of mercantilism had given birth to a new middle class in France - the bourgeoisie. This new social class led the movement for change that ultimately culminated in warfare.**

Task

It has been said that history does not change.  This is simply not true.  Although the names and dates remain constant, the way we as historians interpret history's events and outcomes constantly change.  Your task is two-fold.  After choosing a partner (randomly) each group will research the French Revolution.  The goal here is to familiarize yourself with: 1) the causes of the revolution, 2) the main characters, and 3) the currently accepted outcomes.  Your second and third tasks will be to take a stand.  After weighing the facts in the research section, you and your partner will decide whether or not the French Revolution was a success.  You will do this by completing two projects that reinforce your position

FIRST TASK: Research.  Together with your team member, please research the following list of people and concepts of the French Revolution.  One or two sentences is fine, but please describe each component as it relates to the revolution.  Your final list will be turned in as part of your team's project.

1. Causes of the French Revolution (what was going on in France in the late 1700s that made people so upset with their king and government)
2. First, Second and Third Estates
3. Estates General Meeting 1789 (Why did they meet? formation of National Assembly, Tennis Court Oath) \*
4. Storming the Bastille (why was it important, what happened, why was it important)
5. The Great Fear (what was it?) \*
6. The escape of Louis XVI (what happened?)
7. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (what was it all about?)
8. Women’s March on Versailles (why did it happen? What happened?) \*
9. San Culottes’ ( Who were they? What did they want?)
10. The use and invention of the guillotine
11. Imprisonment and beheading of Marie Antoinette (why did they do this? What was it important?) \*
12. September Massacres (what were they?) \*
13. France at War with other countries in Europe(why did this happen? What happened? Who were they fighting?)
14. National Convention takes over (why was this important? What happened during this period?)
15. Jacobins` (Who were they? What role did they play in the Revolution?)
16. Jean Paul Marat (who was he, why was he important, what happened to him)
17. Beheading of Louis XVI \*
18. Robespierre (who was he, why was he important, what happened to him in the end) \*
19. Reign of Terror (what was it? What happened because of it?)
20. Committee of Public Safety (what did they do? Why did it end?)
21. The Directory (how this signaled the end of the Revolution)

**SECOND TASK**

**After you fill out your chart……..Social Media** Write a series of “tweets” describing an event during the French Revolution, remember they can’t be more than 140 characters and they must describe the event (minimum of 5). You can use hashtags if you want. ***Use one of the events marked with an asterisk (\*)***

***WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH***

**Directions:**  **Please use the following websites for your research. Each item from the above list is documented and can easily be found on one of the below sites. You can also use the textbook and the article I provided.**

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

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/frenchrevolution.htm>

<http://www.kidspast.com/world-history/0370-french-revolution.php>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>

<http://www.history.com/topics/french-revolution>

<http://www.historywiz.com/frenchrev-mm.htm>

***BUILD AN ARGUMENT***

THIRD TASK: Building an Argument.  Together with your partner, you are to pick **ONE** of the three projects below to complete.  Now that you both have finished your research, it is time to consider our essential question**: "Did the French Revolution Succeed?"**  Take a few minutes to discuss this question with your partner and decide on a course of action.  After you have decided on your argument, please choose two projects from the below list.  It is up to you as to how you want to split up the work -you can each do one project or both members can work on both projects. Just remember that each group member will receive the same grade.

***TIP:*  There is no right answer to our essential question, historians continue to debate this question today.  What is important is that you back up your answer with research and facts.**

PROJECTS

#1 POLITICAL CARTOON  -  Create a political cartoon that reinforces your argument on the French Revolution.  Your cartoon may or may not include a caption, but it must include a paragraph explaining your point of view.

#2 POWERPOINT  -  Create a powerpoint that legitimizes your argument.  Your research should come from the websites we used in Task #1.  This project should contain at least 5 slides, and at least 3 slides should include a picture (either from clipart OR from our list of websites).  Remember to be persuasive!

#3 Graphic Organizer  -  Using Inspiration, create a graphic organizer that includes highlights of the French Revolution that back up your argument.  All major events MUST be included, but how you accent the events you choose is up to you.  Please see me if you have questions on what constitutes "major" events.

**Events of the French Revolution**

Name of partners in the group

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Causes of the French Revolution |  |
| First, Second and Third Estates |  |
| Estates General Meeting 1789 |  |
| Storming the Bastille |  |
| The Great Fear |  |
| The escape of Louis XVI |  |
| Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen |  |
| Women’s March on Versailles |  |
| San Culottes’ |  |
| The use and invention of the guillotine |  |
| Imprisonment and beheading of Marie Antoinette |  |
| September Massacres |  |
| France at War with other countries in Europe |  |
| National Convention takes over |  |
| Jacobins` |  |
| Jean Paul Marat |  |
| Beheading of Louis XVI \* |  |
| Robespierre |  |
| Reign of Terror |  |
| Committee of Public Safety |  |
| The Directory |  |
|  |  |

**Task List**

*Each person in the group is responsible for these tasks, you must work together to complete these tasks.*

**Research on the 21 topics** Who did the research? How did you split it up? Who did the writing?

**Twitter responses to the event** Who came up with them?

**Final Project** – What did you do? Who did what?

Rubric

1 = Weak 2 = Moderately Weak 3 = Average 4 = Moderately Strong 5 = Strong

1. All three tasks are complete 1 2 3 4 5
2. The information is accurate. 1 2 3 4 5
3. Used evidence to support the essential question. 1 2 3 4 5
4. All three tasks show an understanding of the topic and related concepts 1 2 3 4 5
5. Overall, the tasks represent the student’s full potential.
6. Work shows originality and thought 1 2 3 4 5
7. Partner reflection 1 2 3 4 5

Additional Comments:

Total Points/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/35 X2= 70 POINTS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT