French Revolution Webquest

We have learned about absolutism and how monarchs abused their power in Europe. The Enlightenment sought to shed the “light” of reason on traditional ideas about government, and some thinkers encouraged the people to revolt. This activity will help you see how both absolute monarchies and the Enlightenment are related to the French Revolution, and will give you a basic overview of the events surrounding this period of unrest.

Directions: Working with a partner, go to the websites listed next to each heading and answer the questions that follow. Write your answers on these sheets. You only need to hand in ONE answer sheet for both partners. Make sure BOTH of your names are on the paper you submit to the teacher.

MARIE ANTOINETTE: http://www.marie-antoinette.org/ (Go to “Articles” and then “Marie Antoinette: Biography”).
1. Who were her parents?

2. Who did she marry and why?

3. Read about her “Extravagant Life”. What do the last three paragraphs of this section say about this topic?

4. What was the Diamond Necklace Affair?

5. What was her nickname and why?

6. What was she quoted as saying when told that people were starving in France?
7. Read Marie Antoinette’s letter to her mother. What is she describing? How does she feel about the French people?

8. Read the first two paragraphs at [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1818marieantoinette.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1818marieantoinette.html). How did Marie Antoinette use her rank as queen frivolously?

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**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:** [www.historywiz.com/oldregime.htm](http://www.historywiz.com/oldregime.htm)

9. How was society organized?

10. Click right arrow to “The Revolt of the Nobility”. How did the king attempt to solve the financial crisis?

11. What was the response to his action?

12. Click right arrow to “The Estates General”. How did the 3rd Estate want to vote, and why?

13. What was the king’s response?

14. Click arrow to “The Revolt of Bourgeoisie”. What was the National Assembly?

15. Why did the National Assembly have to go to a tennis court?

16. Click arrow to “The Tennis Court Oath”. What was this?
17. Click to “The National Assembly—The Rights of Man”. What was the Declaration of the Rights of Man?

18. Click arrow to “The Storming of the Bastille”. Why did they want to go here?

19. Who was the leader of the storming of the Bastille and what happened to him?

20. Click to “Women’s March to Versailles”. What was the purpose of this event?

21. Click to “The Parisian Mob”. Who were the sans-culottes?

22. Go to “Spreading the Gospel of Revolution”. Draw the French flag.

23. Explain the French flag.

24. Go to “The Execution of Louis XVI.” What were Louis XVI’s last words?

25. Go to “The Reign of Terror”. What took place during the Reign of Terror?

26. Who led the Reign of Terror? When was he arrested?

27. Go to “The Directory”. Who came to power in 1799?