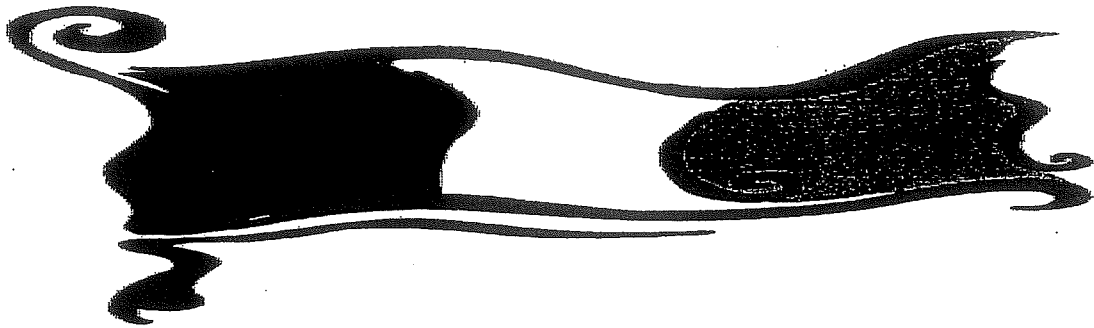




## The French Revolution



For centuries, the quality of life in Europe had been determined by the status that one held. This status could not be attained, but was instead determined by the family to which someone was born. If you were born to a poor family, your life would be one of poverty. No matter how hard an individual worked, it was impossible to rise above this fate.

The wealthy enjoyed a life of ease, comfort, and recreation. Day after day, they pursued the pleasures of European society, while 97% of Europe's people struggled just to survive. This gap between the wealthy and the poor created resentment. Those at the bottom saw the wealthy grow increasingly richer, while they got nothing.

Then in 1776 something unthinkable happened. A group of people at the bottom of society rebelled against those who were at the top, and what was more remarkable, they won. The British Colonies in America declared their independence and then enforced it by beating back the most powerful military on Earth.

This sent shockwaves throughout Europe. And gave hope to many poverty stricken peasants, who wanted to see the powerful aristocracies of Europe fall. If America could do it, why couldn't they? Why couldn't they rebel, and create a new, fairer society?

16/1  
over -

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION THROUGH MUSIC:  
"VIVA LA VIDA"**

Directions: Based on Coldplay's song, "Viva la Vida", write down three (3) facts, three (3) inferences, and three (3) questions.

I used to rule the world  
Seas would rise when I gave the word  
Now in the morning I sleep alone  
Sweep the streets I used to own

I used to roll the dice  
Feel the fear in my enemy's eyes  
Listen as the crowd would sing  
"Now the old king is dead! Long live the king!"

One minute I held the key  
Next the walls were closed on me  
And I discovered that my castles stand  
Upon pillars of salt and pillars of sand

I hear Jerusalem bells a ringing  
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing  
Be my mirror, my sword and shield  
My missionaries in a foreign field

For some reason I can't explain  
Once you go there was never  
Never an honest word  
And that was when I ruled the world

It was the wicked and wild wind  
Blew down the doors to let me in  
Shattered windows and the sound of drums  
People couldn't believe what I'd become

Revolutionaries wait  
For my head on a silver plate  
Just a puppet on a lonely string  
Oh who would ever want to be king?

I hear Jerusalem bells a ringing  
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing  
Be my mirror, my sword and shield  
My missionaries in a foreign field

For some reason I can't explain  
I know Saint Peter won't call my name  
Never an honest word  
But that was when I ruled the world

I hear Jerusalem bells a ringing  
Roman Cavalry choirs are singing  
Be my mirror, my sword and shield  
My missionaries in a foreign field

For some reason I can't explain  
I know Saint Peter won't call my name  
Never an honest word  
But that was when I ruled the world

FACTS (What do the lyrics tell you to be true?)

INFERENCES (What does the song imply but not explicitly state as true?)

QUESTIONS (What does the song make you want to know?)

18 # # # 2

## French Revolution Timeline of Events

	Year	Event	Who Cares?
	1700s	Philosophes / Enlightenment	
	1776	American Revolution	France allies with colonies versus Britain
	1770s-1780s	France piles up DEBT; Louis XVI - absolute monarch; 3 Estates; Estates General is assembly of all three representative groups	
5/5	1789	Estates-General convenes at Versailles	Meets for first time in 175 years. Gets Louix XVI's attention
6/17	1789	Third Estate votes to name themselves <b>National Assembly</b>	First deliberate act of revolution. <b>Proclaims end of absolute monarchy</b> & beginning of representative govt.
6/20	1789	Tennis Court Oath	Pledge to draw up a new constitution
7/14	1789	Storming of Bastille	Symbolic act of revolution (French Independence Day)
Aug	1789	Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen	Influenced by Declaration of Independence. Slogan of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity is adopted.
Oct	1789	Great Fear	Panic spreads rebellion over price of bread and rumors. Violence ensues
June	1791	Royal Family tries to escape to Austria	This influenced his radical enemies
Sept	1791	National Assembly creates new Constitution	Louis reluctantly approved & Constiution creates a <b>limited constitutional monarchy</b>
Sept	1791	National Convention deposes King & elects new legislature	Rise of Jacobins who take political control
April	1792	France declares war on Austria & Prussia	Other monarchs urged France to restore Louis XVI as they didn't want revolutionary ideas to spread.
1/23	1793	Louis XVI executed	
July	1793	Robespierre becomes leader of Comte. Of Public Safety	He governs France as a dictator (period is known as Reign of Terror as those who opposed him were executed)
July	1794	National Convention turns on Robepierre	Robespierre executed
	1795	Directory formed	Executive body of five men
	1796	Directory appoints Napoleon to lead military forces	
	1799	Directory dissolved	3 consuls established - one being Napoleon
	1802	France at peace	Napoleon restores order (banking, taxes, laws, etc.)
	1804	Napoleon crowned Emperor	More powerful than pope - and begins to create empire.



Date \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY SOURCE

# from A Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

On August 27, 1789, the National Assembly of France adopted a revolutionary document, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. As you read this portion of the document, consider the rights it guaranteed to French citizens.

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Section 2

The representatives of the French people, organized as a National Assembly, believing that the ignorance, neglect, or contempt of the rights of man is the sole cause of public calamities and of the corruption of governments, have determined to set forth in a solemn declaration the natural, unalienable, and sacred rights of man, in order that this declaration, being constantly before all the members of the Social body, shall remind them continually of their rights and duties. . . . Therefore the National Assembly recognizes and proclaims, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following rights of man and of the citizen:

Article 1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.

2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression. . . .

4. Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.

5. Law can only prohibit such actions as are hurtful to society. . . .

6. Law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes. . . .

7. No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law. . . . But any citizen summoned or arrested in virtue of the law shall submit without delay, as resistance constitutes an offense.

8. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary, and no one shall suffer punishment except it be legally inflicted in virtue of a law passed and promulgated before the commission of the offense.

9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty, if arrest shall be deemed indispensable, all harshness not essential to the securing of the prisoner's person shall be severely repressed by law.

10. No one shall be disquieted on account of his opinions, including his religious views, provided their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.

11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom, but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law. . . .

13. A common contribution is essential for the maintenance of the public forces and for the cost of administration. This should be equitably distributed among all citizens in proportion to their means. . . .

17. Since property is an inviolable and sacred right no one shall be deprived thereof except where public necessity, legally determined, shall clearly demand it and then only on condition that the owner shall have been previously and equitably indemnified.

from Milton Viorst, *The Great Documents of Western Civilization* (New York: Bantam, 1965); 185-188.

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## Section 4

 PRIMARY SOURCE *from* The Declaration of Independence

*In writing The Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson drew many of his ideas from the works of enlightened thinkers such as John Locke. As you read the following excerpt from that document issued in July 1776, think about the Enlightenment ideas it reflects.*

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations [wrongful exercises of authority], pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism [a government in which the ruler exercises absolute power], it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of

Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. . . .

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude [righteousness] of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

### Discussion Questions

#### Determining Main Ideas

1. According to the first paragraph, what is the purpose of this document?
2. According to the second paragraph, what is the purpose of government, and when do people have the right to alter or abolish it?
3. **Making Inferences** Why do you suppose Jefferson felt that it was not only the right, but also the duty, of a people to overthrow a despotic government? How would the history of the world be affected if despotism were allowed to reign unchecked?