FRENCH REVOLUTION VOCABULARY
FIRST ESTATE

The top of the French Social classes, which was made up of Catholic Church Clergy. Only 1% of Population.
SECOND ESTATE

The middle of the French Social classes, which was made up of Nobles. Only 2% of Population.
THIRD ESTATE

The bottom of the French Social classes, which was made up of middle class merchants (bourgeoisie) and peasants. 97% of population.
BASTILLE

A castle/fortress and prison in Paris that was taken over by the Revolutionaries.
THE GREAT FEAR

A period of panic and riot by peasants and others due to rumors that the king and the privileged would overthrow the Third Estate.
GUILLOTINE

A machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading people.
THE REIGN OF TERROR

A period led by the Jacobins, especially Robespierre, during which many people were ruthlessly executed for treason.
TENNIS COURT OATH

A meeting of the National Assembly, where they vowed to not separate until France had a new Constitution.