The French Revolution Begins (1789-1792)
I. **French** Revolution was caused by economic & political inequality and weakness
A. Unfair structure of the Old Regime - French kings held absolute authority, France divided into three unequal social classes called estates:

King Louis XIV (Bourbon)

Palace of Versailles

Ruled 1643-1715
France’s Three Estates

1. First- Catholic Church **clergy**- held vast lands, paid no taxes

2. Second- **nobles**- held all government offices, paid no taxes

3. Third- **middle** merchant class (bourgeoisie) & **peasants**- paid all the taxes

(Social Classes)
Rise of the Third State

1st (Catholic Clergy)

2nd (Nobles)

3rd (Middle class, peasants)
B. Fueled by Enlightenment ideas (liberty & democracy) and the success of the English & American Revolutions
House of Bourbon

Louis XIV
(1638-1715)
R. 1643-1715

Maria Theresa
(1638-1683)

Louis le Grand,
Dauphin
(1661-1711)
Louis le Grand, Dauphin (1661-1711)

Marie Anna (1660-1690)

Philip V (Spain) (1683-1746)

Charles (1686-1714)

Louis, Dauphin (1682-1712)
Louis, Dauphin (1682-1712)
Marie Adelaide (1685-1712)
Louis XV (1710-1774)
R. 1715-1774
Louis, Dauphin (1707-1712)
Louis XV (1710-1774)
R. 1715-1774
Louis XV
(1710-1774)
R. 1715-1774

Marie Leszczyńska
(1703-1768)

Louis, Dauphin
(1729-1765)
A New King-- Louis XVI

C. King Louis XVI assumed the throne from Louis XV in 1774.

King Louis XV (Bourbon)
Ruled 1710-1774

Ruled 1774-1789
1. Louis XVI & his Austrian wife, Marie-Antoinette, became very unpopular as they led the country into massive debt/inflation
Queen Marie-Antoinette (1755-1793)
Before the revolution, French money was measured by a unit of silver, called a livre. Due to financial mismanagement, the coin became nearly worthless by the late 1780s.
By the late 1780s, taxation and food prices had increased so much that many 3\textsuperscript{rd} Estate families were desperately poor.
D. Economic Crisis- in the 1780s France collapsed into economic depression and millions fell into desperate poverty made worse by a series of crop failures and food shortages (led to starvation)
II. The French Revolution began as Louis XVI lost control of France
A. Louis XVI allowed election of the Estates General in 1789, deputies represented all of France, hoped to reform nation

1,200 deputies (representatives) of the 3 estates met at Versailles in May, 1789
What is the 3rd Estate?

What has it been in the political order?

What does the 3rd Estate demand?

To be Something

Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyes (1748-1836)
% of France’s Population (26 mil)

1st Estate (clergy) 1%

2nd Estate (nobles) 2%

3rd Estate (commoners) 97%
1. Deputies from the 3rd Estate demanded the right to write a constitution, called themselves the National Assembly--Louis XVI banished them from meeting hall (June 1789)
2. **Tennis Court Oath** - National Assembly swore not to disband until they wrote a new constitution for France

*Original text:*

“…We swear never to separate ourselves from the National Assembly until the constitution of France is drawn up and fixed upon solid foundations.”
3. Assembly wrote the *Declaration of the Rights of Man* in August 1789—proclaimed equality and freedom for all *men*.

*Declaration of the Rights of Man*

8-26-1789

“Men are born and remain free and equal in rights”
B. First Blood- Angry mob in Paris stormed the **Bastille** castle prison in July 1789, freed prisoners, seized **weapons**, and killed king’s guards.
Storming of the Bastille (July 14, 1789)
C. March On **Versailles**- Oct. 1789, thousands of **women** forced Louis XVI to move to Paris to work with the Assembly.

**March on Versailles**

Nice Cannon!
Louis XVI Moved To Paris
D. **Constitution** of 1791- created a **limited** monarchy with one **elected** assembly, new court system, ended noble privileges

**France’s new tricolor flag**

The new constitution was proclaimed on September 3\(^{rd}\), 1791
1. Government took control of the Catholic Church and its land, wealth

† Tithes abolished
† Clergy now elected and paid by the state
† Land confiscated
† Monasteries dissolved
† Clergy must swear an oath to the new gov’t

% Clergy loyal to new government
E. Responses - many nobles called émigrés fled France, they urged the monarchies of Europe to oppose France’s revolution.

Much of King Louis XVI’s family fled as émigrés including the king’s brothers Louis Stanislas (left), and Charles (right).
1. In 1791 Louis XVI and family tried to **flee** but were caught/arrested near the Austrian border, then **imprisoned**.
Louis & Marie were kept under guard in the Tuileries palace in Paris.
Think About It...

*What were the causes of the French Revolution (think of three)?