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| **Key Events** | **Brief Synopsis of Event**  *Describe the key event in a general, non-biased way.* |
| **Clergy***.*  *How did they feel / what did they want?* | **Nobility**  **How did they feel / what did they want?** | **Peasant***.*  *How did they feel / what did they want?* |
| **The Estates-General** | May, 1789. King Louis XVI summoned the 3 estates, under pressure from 3rd estate, to solve the financial crisis. 3rd Estate wanted changes to taxation and constitutional government. | Wanted no change. Pressured the King to keep things the way they were. | Same as the clergy. Remember, these two estates are powerful and helped to force the King to keep the status quo. He faced pressure from both sides. | Desperate. Sick, tired, hungry, poor. Wanted a say in government and wanted a change to the taxation system. |
| **The National Assembly** | June 17th, 1789. After growing frustration with the single vote system and a lack of changes to tax law, the 3rd Estate declared itself the National Assembly, and the governing legislative body of France. | Anxious and annoyed at the 3rd estate. Their right and beliefs were called into question as religious representatives. They wanted the National Assembly disbanded. | Similar to the 1st Estate in that they wanted to keep the voting system and taxation system as it was. They would have pressured the King to stop the National Assembly. Pushing to keep the feudal system and feudal privilege intact. | Frustrated at no change. Empowered to do something about it, they acted in creating a legislative body. Defiant of King Louis XVI and the 1st and 2nd Estate they attempted to create a constitution. |
| **The Tennis Court Oath** | June 20th, 1789. King Louis XVI retaliated against the National Assembly by locking the doors to their meeting place, denying their right to assemble. They found a place to assemble in a nearby indoor tennis court and swore an oath to continue to meet until they had a constitution. | We’ll show them by locking them out of our meeting halls.  A constitution might change our system, and our world. We would lose power. That is unacceptable. | Anxious at the rising tensions. This problem is not going away and the people are continuing to meet. The 2nd estate is beginning to fear that they might be overthrown. | Cheering and dedicated the 3rd estate vows to meet and continue to work on a constitution. They will not be stopped.  They are defiant of the ruling classes and are getting more enraged. |
| **The Storming of the Bastille** | The King, fearing armed revolutionaries, began dispatching troops to various parts of France.  The revolutionaries (3rd Estate), seeing troops amassing in urban centers, feared that Louis XVI intended to put them down by force.  They gathered (900 of them) and stormed the Bastille, a fortress, prison, and symbol of royal power and authority. They wanted guns and/or gun powder.  The general negotiated a surrender, and then they took what they wanted from the fortress, freed the prisoners and cut of the general’s head, parading it around on a pike. | Fear, after the beheading of the general.  The revolution is growing more violent and the people will not be stopped. Worries mount about possible attacks against the church. | Fear, at the fact that a noble had lost his life horrifically.  Something must be done to stop the revolutionaries. There must be a military response to this attack against the Bastille. | Victory for the revolution. We have guns and can defend ourselves against the King’s army. |
| **The Great Fear** | July-August 1789. 3rd Estate had succeeded in mounting its revolution and they had control of France. The King was still in power. The National Assembly stood firm and yet the people feared that the revolution would be overthrown from outside, and from within. They feared that nobles were sending letters to their royal relatives in other nations, asking for troops, to suppress the revolution and restore feudal privilege.  The 3rd Estate, fearing betrayal from the 1st and 2nd estate rioted and looted houses of nobility and passed laws to revoke the rights of the clergy and nobility. | We must do something to stop this revolution. Perhaps we can send word to our brothers in the church. If this anti-church sentiment is successful here, it may spread. Perhaps they will send troops from other nations. | We must speak to our cousins in other countries and as for help in quashing this rebellion. We need neighboring armies to join in our cause to keep the nobility at the top of the social hierarchy. | Rumors are spreading that the King has written to his cousins, asking for help in regaining absolute power.  People are saying he wants to kill us and stop the revolution in its tracks.  Nobles are writing letters too. Let’s take over their homes. Let’s pass legislation which will take away their rights. |
| **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** | The democratic constitution written by the French people (the National Assembly) which identified the rights of French citizens as well as their liberties and responsibilities. It stands as an example of one of the greatest democratic documents ever written and serves as a model for other nations to follow. Yet it excludes many groups, like women, and slaves. | Everyone is equal and our churches have been torn apart. We have lost much of our power, through anti-Catholic laws. How can this get worse? | We have to pay taxes now, and our lands have been taken away. Oh, no! What will we do? | We have rights (if we own land) and we can own land now, if we have the money to buy it. Everyone has right and everyone is equal (if you are a free man, that is). |
| **The Reign of Terror** | A period marked with the purge of the nobility. 40 000 people were killed by guillotine under the authority of the Committee for Public Safety, headed by Maximillien Robespierre.  Opposition to Robespierre grew, and after he passed the Law of 22 Prairial, giving himself more authority to dispose of his opposition and those opposed to the revolution, he was beheaded, ending the Reign of Terror. | *I’m gonna die! Oh no. I’d better put on my best revolutionary colours and sing La Marseilles.* | *I will probably die too. Well. I had a good run, I guess.* | *Kill all opposition to the revolution. We will not be stopped. Hey! What did you just say? You think we need a king? You think this is getting out of hand? CHOP. Well we don’t need that kind of talk. Off with your head.* |
| **The Directory** | A 5 person executive committee, much like Montesquieu’s vision, was put in place (The Directory). One of the men in the Directory was Revolutionary General Napoleon.  Eventual Napoleon staged a coup d’etat and overthrew the Directory and claimed power for himself. | *Wow. I made it, and this seems much more calm. Some of the rights of the church are coming back. That’s good. Let’s rebuild our churches.*  *Oh look, Napoleon just took power. He is our leader. He looks a little like a king. We like that.* | *Wow, we got some of our lands back. Napoleon is seizing power. He has absolute power. We’ve seen something like that before. Kings are like that. We like kings… This could be good for us.* | *Yay, Robespierre is gone. We don’t have to worry about being accused of sympathizing with the nobility. People aren’t getting beheaded.*  *But wait. Napoleon just took power. He has all the power. That’s not good. We’ve seen that before.* |

Remember that this document is not the “be-all-end-all” of opinions regarding events during the French Revolution. It is a starting point and a summation. Do not copy word for word, what is written here. That is plagiarism. Take these ideas as a helpful start, to supplement any work you have done, or may have been left at the school.