

Causes of the French Revolution

Central Historical Question:

Given the conditions in France, would acting in rebellion against the King be an act of heroism or terrorism?

Prezi Notes:

Document #1 Description of King Louis XIV's rule 1643 – 1715

1. How had King Louis XIV interpreted *divine right*?
2. Who benefitted most under Louis' rule?
3. Who suffered under his rule?
4. Which of his actions go against those rights our Constitution protects for us?
5. What parts of this paragraph indicate why the King of France still held his power?

Document #2: Arthur Young "Travels in France" 1787-1789 [Taille = tax]

6. How did the tax system Arthur Young witness in France work?
7. Young hears stories of riots in markets over the price of bread. Who do you believe Young sympathized with; the rioters or the bakers? Why?
8. How might the decision by the government to call in the military effect people's attitudes towards the government?
9. Do you think these people would consider acts of rebellion as terrorism or acts of heroism?

Document #3 What is the third estate? *Abbé Sieyès 1789*

10. Why does the Third Estate believe they are not being fairly represented?

11. How is Sieyès' arguing that the Third Estate could be a self sufficient possibly be an effective argument?

13. How do you think Sieyès would justify (or condemn) the acts of the bread rioters?

14. What imagery does Sieyès create in his final sentence?

Document #4 Jean Jacques Rousseau: *The Social Contract, 1763*

15. How might the rioters or Sieyès use Rousseau's Social Contract to justify their actions?

16. How do you think Rousseau would answer the Central Historical Question?

