# French Revolution and Napoleonic Era Assessment

Name:

Date:

## Step 1:

Analyze the primary source image provided below. Respond to each of the reflection questions in several complete sentences.

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| FRENCH REVOLUTION, 1792. - A chained member of the Third...  **The French Revolution Era, 1792**  *A chained member of the Third Estate rises up against the clergy and nobility.* |
| Analysis:  * What is happening in this image? * The image depicts a member of the Third Estate breaking free from his chains, standing defiantly against the clergy and nobility. The clergyman appears alarmed, while the nobleman recoils in fear, symbolizing a direct challenge to the traditional social order. Weapons scattered on the ground hint at the looming conflict, suggesting that the Third Estate may be prepared to use force in their struggle for rights and freedom. * How does the image relate to the information you learned about the French Revolution in the lesson text and video, including the influence of the Enlightenment? * The Enlightenment promoted individual rights, legal equality, and the challenge to traditional authority. This image embodies those ideals, depicting the Third Estate rejecting oppression and standing up to the privileged classes. Inspired by Enlightenment thought, revolutionaries demanded political representation and a say in governance, fueling the collective resistance illustrated in the scene. * What perspective, or viewpoint, do you think the artist had about the French Revolution? How might the image have been drawn differently if the artist had a different perspective? * The artist seems to sympathize with the Third Estate’s cause, portraying its representative as determined and heroic. This depiction suggests support for their struggle against oppression. Had the artist favored the monarchy or nobility instead, the image might have presented the Third Estate figure as reckless or menacing, while the clergy and nobility would appear as dignified victims rather than fearful adversaries. |

## Step 2:

Answer each reflection question in one complete paragraph using evidence from the lesson:

* In your opinion, what was the most important development or event in the early years of the French Revolution (1789–1792)? Explain your response.
* I believe the most significant event in the early years of the French Revolution was the Tennis Court Oath of 1789. This moment showcased the Third Estate’s unwavering commitment to unity and constitutional government, as they refused to disband until fair governance was secured. It marked a definitive break from the old power structure, proving that ordinary people were ready to challenge the monarchy and demand representation. The Tennis Court Oath laid the foundation for key events that followed, including the storming of the Bastille and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, making it a pivotal turning point in France’s political transformation.
* Explain what the “Reign of Terror” was and how it affected the course of the French Revolution.
* The Reign of Terror (1793–1794) was a period of extreme measures led by the Committee of Public Safety under Robespierre, during which mass executions were carried out to eliminate perceived enemies of the Revolution. Paranoia and mistrust gripped society, as even moderate revolutionaries faced accusations of counter-revolutionary activity. While the Reign of Terror was meant to safeguard the Revolution from internal and external threats, its excessive violence and concentration of power led to widespread disillusionment. In the end, it backfired on its own leaders and paved the way for a more authoritarian regime, ultimately setting the stage for Napoleon Bonaparte’s rise to power.
* What action of Napoleon Bonaparte do you think had the most significant impact on France and Europe overall? Explain your response.
* Napoleon’s most enduring legacy was the introduction of the Napoleonic Code (or Civil Code), which had a profound impact on France and beyond. This legal system standardized laws on property rights, civil procedures, and individual freedoms, reinforcing revolutionary ideals of legal equality and merit-based advancement. While Napoleon’s military conquests temporarily altered European borders, the Napoleonic Code left a far greater mark by shaping legal systems across Europe, Latin America, and other parts of the world. By embedding principles of equality and uniformity before the law, it influenced modern governance long after Napoleon’s rule had ended.