# 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 is depicting a chained member of the Third Estate rising against figures representing the clergy and nobility. The man from the Third Estate appears defiant, breaking free from his chains, symbolizing liberation and resistance. The clergy and nobleman exhibit expressions of shock and fear, suggesting their loss of power and control. The background shows a fortified structure resembling the Bastille, reinforcing the revolutionary context. * 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 image reflects key revolutionary themes like the struggle against oppression, the demand for equality, and the rejection of absolute authority. Enlightenment ideas emphasized reason, liberty, and the rights of individuals, inspiring the Third Estate to challenge the established social hierarchy. The depiction of the Third Estate breaking free symbolizes the rejection of feudal privileges and the rise of popular sovereignty, foundational concepts in Enlightenment thought.   * 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 had a sympathetic view towards the revolutionaries, as evidenced by the empowering depiction of the Third Estate overcoming their oppressors. The nobility and clergy are portrayed as fearful and powerless, highlighting their diminishing influence. If the artist had an opposing perspective, supporting the monarchy or aristocracy, the image might have shown the revolutionaries as chaotic or violent, with the clergy and nobility depicted as noble victims defending tradition and order. |

## 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.  
    
  The most important development in the early years of the French Revolution was the storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789. This event symbolized the collapse of royal tyranny and the rise of the people's power. It marked the beginning of revolutionary activity across France, inspiring citizens to challenge the monarchy and demand reforms. The Bastille, once a symbol of oppressive authority, became a powerful icon of freedom and resistance, setting the tone for the revolutionary period.
* 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 marked by extreme political violence and repression led by the radical Jacobins under Robespierre's leadership. It aimed to purge France of enemies of the revolution and protect the new republic from internal and external threats. The Committee of Public Safety oversaw mass executions, including the use of the guillotine, targeting perceived counter revolutionaries. While it temporarily consolidated revolutionary gains, the Reign of Terror also created fear, destabilized the government, and eventually led to Robespierre's downfall, signaling a shift towards more moderate rule.
* What action of Napoleon Bonaparte do you think had the most significant impact on France and Europe overall? Explain your response.

Napoleon Bonaparte's implementation of the Napoleonic Code had the most significant impact on France and Europe. This comprehensive legal framework established principles of equality before the law, secular authority, and property rights, which influenced legal systems beyond France's borders. The Code helped modernize and unify legal practices in many European countries, promoting ideas of meritocracy and civil liberties that resonated with Enlightenment ideals. Its enduring legacy can still be seen in legal traditions around the world today.