

Appendix A9
Student Notes
The Road to the Guillotine

The Icing on the Cake

Since the citizens of the Estates-General took matters into their own hands and declared themselves the National Assembly, Louis XVI grew worried and angry. He was so uneasy that he called for his Swiss guards to surround Paris; the French citizens grew extremely worried as they watched the Swiss guards move in. During this movement, the working class, also known as the sansculottes, were starting to rise up and have a louder voice in the events taking place. Jacques Necker, the king's financial advisor, was seen as the mediator between the working class and the aristocracy. The workers of Paris believed that Necker could help the rising cost of bread, ease the burden of taxes, and help decrease the national debt. The firing of Necker caused a deeper suspicion of the king, causing riots, break-ins, and major unrest.

The Storming of the Bastille

After many days of street violence, the Parisians turned their efforts towards the fourteenth century fortress, the Bastille. For years rumors circulated about many political prisoners being held there; in reality, there were only seven inmates—none of which were held there for speaking out against the government. When the mob finally entered the Bastille, they took the head guard, Launay, and executed him along with another guard. The mob cut off their heads, placed them on pikes and carried the heads around town in celebration. July 14, 1789, the day the Bastille fell, would mark the beginning of the French Revolution.

The Great Fear

As a desperate attempt to restore order, Louis XVI placed Necker back in office; unfortunately this attempt had little impact on the rioting. As if things were not bad enough, rumors started spreading about Spanish and British troops killing all the peasants and burning all the crops located right outside of Paris. This rumor caused the “great fear”—during this time, peasants were in constant fear and walking around fully armed with anything they could find. Fortunately, the rumors were not true and the state of panic passed quickly. However, the government was disintegrating quickly as the National Assembly tried to develop a plan to solve the violence.

Toward a New Government

While delegates were in their meeting hall, they agreed that many things must change before order could be reestablished. Some delegates suggested that taxes be paid by all citizens, not just the Third Estate. Others suggested that certain advantages for the nobility under the “ancien regime” be abolished. In the excitement of all this, the churchmen forfeited their tithes, landowners would no longer collect rent, and peasants would be able to participate in the government and in the army.

The Declaration of Man

With the help of the Bill of Rights from both England and the United States and some reluctance, the Rights of Man was born. It included things such as freedom, equality, protection, property, etc. Most importantly, the Absolute Monarchy was no longer the government—there could still be a king, but with little to no power.

Women March on Versailles

Due to the lack of bread in Paris, more than 6,000 women marched to Versailles to see the king and queen. The French women hated the queen so much; they even talked about murdering her. While the women were on their way to the palace, the National Guard insisted that their leader, Marquis de Lafayette, march them to Versailles to bring the king back to Paris. Meanwhile back at Versailles, the angry mob of women forced their way into the meeting hall of the National Assembly demanding bread. The women were instructed to see the king; six ladies were allowed to see the king. He agreed to gather all the bread in the palace and send it home with them, and then he went to bed believing that all was solved. Unfortunately, the women were not satisfied; early the next morning the women stormed the palace demanding to see the queen. They killed two of the queen's bodyguards and placed their heads on pikes, and slashed her bedding. In the nick of time, the National Guards arrived at the palace and were able to get the angry mob to go outside. In order to get the mob to leave the palace completely, the king agreed to go to Paris with his wife and son. Six hours later, the royal family arrived in Paris—they would never see Versailles again.

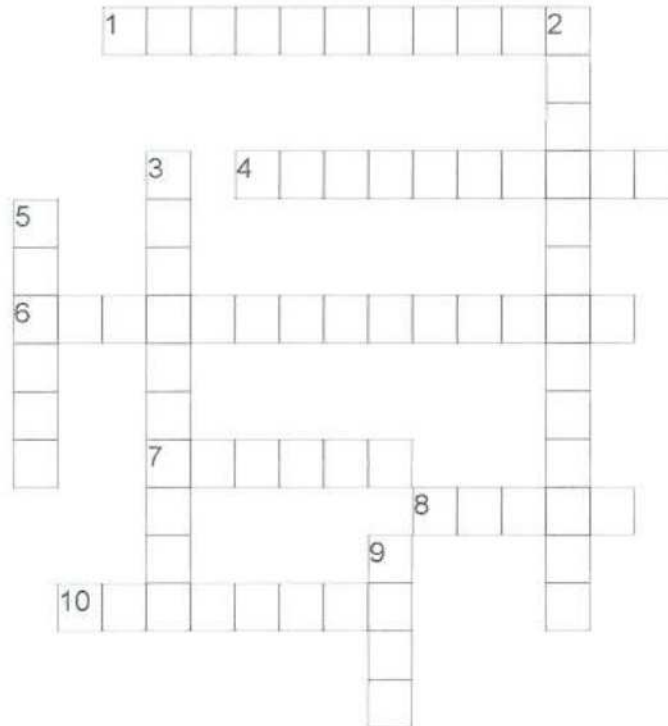
Reform and the Constitution

With the king back in Paris, the National Assembly once again turned its attention towards reforms and a constitution. The Assembly formed a limited constitutional monarchy—the Assembly made all the rules—the king was expected to enforce them. The Assembly thought they had it all figured out—the Revolution was over—unfortunately, they were wrong.

Adapted from the Person textbook for 6th grade Core Knowledge History and Geography

Appendix A10
Crossword Puzzle

The Road to the Guillotine



- | ACROSS | DOWN |
|---|--|
| 1. The _____ of Man included the rights of freedom, equality, protection, property, etc. | 2. Showed up just in time to calm the mob of angry women |
| 4. July 14, 1789 marks the beging of the _____ of France | 3. King Louis XVI and his family would never see this place again |
| 6. The National Assembly created a limited _____ monarchy; citizens have more say in government | 5. Louis XVI fired this man and it created an uproar from the Third Estate |
| 7. Head guard who was murdered, head put on a pike, and paraded around town | 9. The rumor that foreign troops were killing peasants created the Great _____ |
| 8. The Woman marched all the way to Versailles to demand this from the king | |
| 10. 14th Century fortress | |