

STEPPING STONE  
SCHOOL (HIGH)

**CLASS : VIII**

**Subject: History & Civics**

**Topic: The French Revolution**

**Date: 16/06/2020**

**Time Limit: 20 min**

***Worksheet No. : 07***

[My dear students, we have finished Renaissance and American War already. Hope you have gone through this chapter. Today we will start a new chapter French Revolution which was actually the result of American war. 18th Century Europe saw the emergence of feeling of unity and Democracy.]

**Revolution means a forcible overthrow of a Government or social order, in favour of a new system.**

In 1789 a revolution began in France which changed French society for ever and had a major impact on the world. This came to be known as the French Revolution.



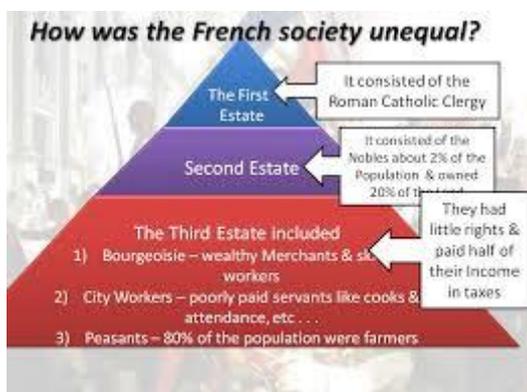
- The period before the French Revolution was known as **Ancien Regime**. Feudalism still existed there and there were many inequalities and injustices.



This picture shows the extreme oppressed condition and humiliation existed in France during Ancien Regime.

## ➤ Causes of the French Revolution:

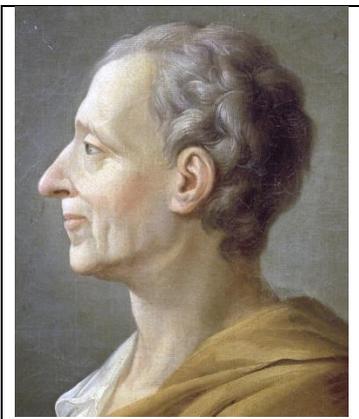
- **Unequal social order:** Society was divided into three classes or estates. The First Estate consisted of the clergy and the Second Estate consisted of the nobility. These two Estates lived in great comfort and had many privileges. The most important privilege was that they did not have to pay taxes.



The Third Estate was made up mainly of peasants. Their lives were extremely difficult and the laws were unfair towards them.

They had to pay heavy taxes, perform free labour on the lords' lands and repair the roads. They had to pay special taxes before they were allowed to fish in the rivers, hunt in the forest or grind their grain in the mills.

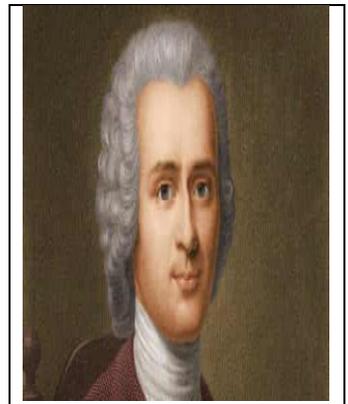
- **Rise of Middle Class:** Not all the members of the Third Estate were peasants. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century a new social class has developed. This was the middle class, composed of people such as doctors, lawyers and bankers. They were well educated and wealthy but were still considered members of the Third Estate. They were not eligible for high posts in the army and the Government.
- **Role of Philosophers:** Thinkers and writers discussed ideas like equality, liberty and fraternity. The most famous French thinkers were Voltaire, Montesquieu and Rousseau. Rousseau said that if a Government did not perform its duties, the people had the right to revolt. He also said:” Man is born free”.



**Montesquieu**



**Voltaire**



**Rousseau**

- **Autocratic Government and corrupt**

**administration:** The French king, Louis xvi, was an absolute Monarch. No one was allowed to criticize the king's policies and decisions. His wife, Marie Antoinette, was Austrian and was regarded as a foreigner. They lived in a magnificent palace at Versailles, near Paris, and were out of touch with the people. The administration of France was old fashioned and inefficient. Each province made its own laws and had its own system to collect taxes.



The magnificent palace of Versailles where Louis xvi used to reside.

- **Impact of the American Revolution:** The success of Americans in gaining freedom and independence from British Rule greatly inspired the French people to revolt against the Absolute Monarchy.

These are the causes for the growth of French Revolution.

- **Declaration of National Assembly:** Louis XVI began making preparations for the Estates General to meet. He requested each village member and town to submit a list of their problems. However, when the Estates General met on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1789, it became clear that Louis XVI was only interested in introducing new taxes. The Common People formed a new group called the National Assembly. Louis XVI retaliated by closing the Hall at Versailles. **The people were determined not to stop and instead met at a nearby indoor Tennis Court. They swore an oath to establish a constitution for France.**



↑ **This incident led to the beginning of the Revolution.**

*Follow this link for your better understanding* ↓

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11XUfP9IDG7\\_OOrrOL0DgkwUYvEFXDHIv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11XUfP9IDG7_OOrrOL0DgkwUYvEFXDHIv/view?usp=sharing)

*[Copy the questions and solve them on a sheet of paper date wise. Keep the worksheets ready in a file to be submitted on the opening day.]*

1. What does the term Ancien Regime denote for?
2. Name the French philosophers who inspired to start the French Revolution?
3. What Privileges did the First Estate enjoy in the Society?
4. How did Louis XVI lead corrupt administration?
5. Who declared National Assembly, when and why?

6. Which incident came to be known as Tennis Court Oath?

