

ONE PAGE SUMMARY

Academic Education GSEB > Class 11 Arts > History

The French Revolution

The French Revolution: A Fight for Liberty and Equality

DEFINITION

The French Revolution was a period of radical social and political change in France from 1789 to 1799. It aimed to overthrow the monarchy and establish a republic based on the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

KEY CONCEPTS

Estates System

French society was divided into three estates: clergy, nobility, and commoners, leading to inequality.

Declaration of the Rights of Man

This document proclaimed the rights of individuals and the principles of freedom and equality.

Reign of Terror

A period marked by extreme violence and political purges led by the Committee of Public Safety.

Napoleon Bonaparte

A military leader who rose to power after the revolution, eventually becoming Emperor of France.

Guillotine

A device used for executions during the revolution, symbolizing the radical measures taken.

EXAMPLES

- The storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.
- The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.
- The establishment of the First French Republic.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Remember 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' as the revolution's motto.
- ★ Use the acronym 'R.E.N.' for key events: Revolution, Execution, Napoleon.
- ★ Visualize the guillotine to recall the Reign of Terror.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Confusing the causes of the revolution with its outcomes.
- ✗ Overlooking the significance of the Estates-General meeting.
- ✗ Not distinguishing between different phases of the revolution.

QUICK RECAP

The French Revolution was a transformative period that challenged monarchy and established democratic ideals. Key events include the storming of the Bastille and the Reign of Terror, leading to the rise of Napoleon. Understanding the core principles of liberty and equality is essential.