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 Enlightenment ideals.

KEY CONCEPTS

Estates System

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

Declaration of the Rights of Man

This document proclaimed the rights of citizens and the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Reign of Terror

A period of extreme violence where thousands were executed to eliminate perceived enemies of the revolution.

Napoleon Bonaparte

A military leader who rose to power after the revolution and established himself as Emperor of France.

Impact on Europe

The revolution inspired other countries to pursue democratic reforms and challenged monarchies across Europe.

EXAMPLES

→ The storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

→ The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.

→ The rise of Napoleon after the revolution.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' as the revolution's motto.

★ Use 'Bastille' to recall the start of the revolution.

★ Think of 'Terror' to remember the Reign of Terror's violence.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the Estates System with modern social classes.

✗ Overlooking the role of women in the revolution.

✗ Assuming the revolution was only about France, ignoring its global impact.

QUICK RECAP

The French Revolution was a pivotal event that transformed France from a monarchy to a republic. Key concepts include the Estates System, the Declaration of the Rights of Man, and the Reign of Terror, which collectively reshaped society and politics in Europe.