**­French Revolution 3 - The Reign of Terror**

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| **Aim:**  | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:****1.****2.** |  |

**A. The End of the Monarchy**

In June 1791, the royal family left the palace in Paris during the night, disguised as servants. But on the way to Austria, Louis stopped at his favorite restaurant. Someone recognized him, and he was captured. A large crowd escorted him back to Paris. From then on, French people who supported the revolution considered Louis a traitor.

*What should the people do with the king?*

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**B. The Committee of Public Safety (April 1793)**

The Committee of Public Safety was set up on April 6, 1793, during one of the crises of the Revolution, France was a war against Austria. The government drafted most of France’s men into the army. But the supporters of the revolution were afraid that there were spies inside France who were helping the Austrians. To protect France from betrayal, Maximilian Robespierre and other revolutionary leaders set up the Committee of Public Safety. The committee tried to find any traitors who might go against the revolution. To find anyone who might be a traitor, Robespierre set up neighborhood watch committees so that everyone was watching their neighbors.

*What was the purpose (persuade, inform or entertain) of the Committee of Public Safety?*

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**C. Law of Suspects (September 1793)**

The Committee of Public Safety passes many new laws in order to progress the revolution and try to end uprisings among the counter-revolutionaries (people who are against the revolution) including:

1. The Law of Suspects:All suspect people still at liberty within the territory of the (French) Republic shall be placed under arrest. Those considered to be suspect are

* Anyone whose conduct, relations, speech, or writings seem to support the government of King Louis.
* those who bring about discouragement
* those who spread false news in order to divide or disturb the people
* those who have tried to mislead opinion
* anyone who encourages bad morals

The penalty for all these offenses is death.

2. The Role of the Citizen: From this moment, until the time when the enemy is driven from the republic, all Frenchmen must serve in the army, young men will go into combat; married men will manufacture arms and transport supplies; women will make tents and uniforms; children will make old linen into bandages; old men will be carried into the public squares to arouse the courage of soldiers and excite hatred for kings.

*What will life be under this government?*

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*Are these laws necessary? Explain your answer.*

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**D. Life Under the Reign of Terror**

The guillotine, which came to symbolize the French Revolution, was first used in 1792. Its scaffold was the final stage for Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, aristocrats, foreigners, revolutionaries, counterrevolutionaries, bourgeoisie, and peasants alike. For a time, executions by guillotine were a popular entertainment that attracted great crowds of spectators, with vendors selling programs listing the names of the condemned.

It is estimated that about 15,000 men, women, and children were murdered during the Reign of Terror. Their “crimes” ranged from crying over a relative killed by the guillotine, someone chopping down a tree that was “planted in honor of the revolution”, anyone who discussed their dislike of the revolution, or anyone who would use the wrong terminology—using “monsieur” or “madame” instead of citizen and citizeness.

The Reign of Terror continued for over a year. In total, approximately 40,000 people died by the guillotine:

* 15% of those killed were Nobles and Clergy
* Another 15% were middle class
* The remaining 70% were peasants and workers.

*How did the Guillotine work?* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Who was the intended audience of the guillotine?*

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*Why is this time period was called the Reign of Terror?*

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