**Louis XIV rules France**

May 14, 1643 – September 1, 1715

* took throne at 5 years old
* absolutist monarch
* strengthened France, strengthened the monarchy
* lives 77 years, so long that he outlived his son and grandson

**Louis XV rules France**

September 1, 1715 – May 10, 1774

* great-grandson of Louis XIV
* lived a lavish and luxurious lifestyle
* ran up debt during 7 Years War/French and Indian War

**7 Years War / French and Indian War**

1756-1763

* France runs up **huge** debts
* France ceded New France (but not Louisiana) to GB
* France lost any supremacy in India and had to destroy any fortifications at trading posts
* Spain ceded Florida to GB
* France ceded Louisiana to Spain
* GB returned Cuba and Philippines to Spain

**Louis (the Dauphin) marries Marie Antoinette**

January 1, 1770

* marriage by proxy in Vienna with MA’s brother Ferdinand standing in as the bridegroom
* marriage contract only completed after MA submitted to three months of oral surgery without anesthesia because the French representative thought her teeth were too crooked to be queen
* MA is 14, Louis is 15
* video plays (tells story of Marie’s life)

**Ceremonial marriage of Marie and Louis**

May 16, 1770

* bedding ceremony follows that evening

**Louis XVI rules France**

May 10, 1774 – September 21, 1792

**American Revolution**

1775-1783

* France regains some small holdings lost in 1763
* Spain regains Florida

**Jacques Necker becomes Director-General of Finances**

1776 - 1781

* couldn’t be Minister of Finance because he was Protestant
* began reforms of France’s finances but was blamed for huge debt resulting from assisting the colonies in the American Revolution
* resigned and retired

**Marie & Louis’ marriage consummated**

August 1777

* Marie’s brother, Joseph II visited Versailles for five weeks to figure out why it had not been consummated yet
  + discovered Louis XVI’s medical condition and convinced him to have it fixed
* within 8 months Marie was pregnant

**France recognized U.S.A. as a sovereign nation**

February 6, 1778

* goal is to weaken GB
  + keep them from getting too powerful
  + exact revenge for the French losses in the 7 Years War
* signed a military alliance
  + went to war with GB
  + provided weapons, grants, loans
  + sent an army to serve under Washington
  + sent a navy that prevented British escape from Yorktown in 1781
* total cost – about $13 billion in current dollars (1.3 billion livres)

**Jacques Necker becomes Director-General of Finance, a minister, & member of the King’s Council**

1788 – June 23, 1789

* banned grain exports
* couldn’t solve voting crisis in the Estates General
* refused to attend meeting of the King’s Council and was dismissed by Louis

**Estates General convenes**

May 5, 1789

* had been summoned the year before after not being called for 140 years
  + to allow for elections and travel
* Louis had granted the 3rd estate double representation
  + they expected voting to be different
* voting was to be one vote per estate
* met in a temporary hall constructed in the village of Versailles
* rather than considering the taxation issue the estates debated the voting issue
* 1st estate – clergy
* 2nd estate – nobility
* 3rd estate – peasantry and bourgeoisie
  + peasants paid most of the taxes with nobles and clergy mostly going untaxed

**National Assembly**

June 17, 1789 – July 9, 1789

**Tennis Court Oath**

June 20, 1789

* member of the Third Estate, locked out of their meeting hall, met on the king’s tennis court
* took an oath to remain until they had written a Constitution for France
* signed by 576 men
* were locked out two days later and met in the Church of Saint Louis
  + majority of the clergy joined them there
* king met with them and ordered them to disperse
  + they refused, upholding the TCO

**National Constituent Assembly**

July 10, 1789

* essentially still the NA, but renamed
* asked the king to remove the troops that had massed around Versailles and Paris
  + he refused
  + *offered* to move the NCA to a location directly *between* the two armies (Paris and Versailles) and cutting them off from support form Paris

**Jacques Necker becomes Director-General of Finance**

July 1789 – September 1790

**Storming of the Bastille**

July 14, 1789

* fortress and prison in Paris and a symbol of the *ancient regime* (old regime)
* source of arms and ammunition
* people ticked and afraid of massing troops around Paris
* Bastille Day becomes a national holiday in France celebrated much as our Fourth of July Independence Day in America
* true beginning of French Revolution
  + gunpowder seized
  + 7 prisoners released
  + governor of the prison killed by the mob
  + Bastille torn down on orders from Paris’ city government

**August Decrees**

August 4, 1789

* abolished feudalism
* eliminated tithes

**Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen**

August 26, 1789

* more a statement of principles than a constitution
* men are born and remain free and equal in rights

**March to Versailles**

October 5, 1789

* women in markets of Paris were near rioting over the high price and scarcity of bread
* women and revolutionaries grew into a mob which ransacked the city armory for weapons and marched to Versailles
* laid siege to the palace and stated demands to Louis XVI
* early the next morning an unguarded gate allowed them access to the palace and they rampaged through the halls searching for the queen’s bedchamber, she barely escaped
* several royal guards will killed and at least two had their heads removed and hoisted up on pikes
* they demanded the king and his family return to Paris with them
* about 60,000 people accompanied the king back to Paris
* the royal family was housed in the Tuileries Palace (unoccupied since Louis XIV moved to Versailles

**Civil Constitution of the Clergy**

July 12, 1790

* subordinated the RCC in France to the French government
* ended monastic orders
* church lands had already been confiscated

**Flight to Varennes**

June 20, 1791

* hoped to escape to Austria (Marie’s home, and where her brother, Joseph II, was emperor)
* arrested in Varennes, just 50 km away from the fortified royalist city of Montemédy
* returned to Paris and imprisoned in the Tuilerries

**Declaration of Pilnitz**

August 27, 1791

* Austria and Prussia declared support of Louis XVI against the French Revolution
* called on European powers to intervene if Louis was threatened
* said Austria would go to war *only* if all other major European powers also went to war with France
  + done so that Austria wouldn’t have to go to war
  + was a lock because Britain didn’t want to go to war with France
  + Austria agreed only to satisfy the émigrés from France who were sheltering in Austria
* interpreted by the National Assembly to mean that Austria intended to go to war with France

**Constitution of 1791**

September 3, 1791

* simplified judicial system – elected judges and prosecutors
* provinces eliminated – 83 départements were created – each divided into smaller administrative units with elected local assemblies
* king still appoints and dismisses ministers at will
* power to legislate given to the Legislative Assembly
* right to vote was limited
  + active and passive divisions of the population based on wealth
  + French males 25+ who paid taxes equivalent to three days’ wages could vote
  + A voluntary tax allowed a passive citizen to become an active citizen
  + Active citizens voted for electors who chose the representatives to the LA
  + Limited male suffrage is the result and it is common among European constitutions of the 19th century – men of property get the vote
* Slavery and the slave trade are preserved – too profitable to get rid of
* Jews are enfranchised

**Legislative Assembly**

October 1, 1791 – September 1792

* chosen by indirect election
* king could temporarily veto but the LA could override by approving a bill in three successive assemblies
* no one who was in the National Constituent Assembly could be elected to the LA – members of the LA were thus more radical and less experienced
* Women do not receive the franchise
  + Eventually through laws all children can inherit – primogeniture is abolished
  + Illegitimate children and mothers are able to use fathers for support
  + Wives can initiate divorce
  + Women were still not made “active” citizens due to Rousseau’s objections that they were just childbearers and incapable of participating in public affairs
* Olympe de Gouges wrote the “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the French Citizen” – she appealed to Marie Antoinette for support and as a result was later executed as a royalist sympathizer

**Cult of Reason established**

January 1792

* churches were closed, clergy were tortured, and the Cathedral of Notre Dame was turned into a “Temple of Reason”
* mention Marx – opiate of the masses

**France declared war on Austria**

April 20, 1792

* Austria allied with Prussia, France began losing immediately
* war with Prussia followed
  + the Prussian commander, the Duke of Brunswick pushed into France
    - said he would take any action necessary if it meant preventing harm to the royal family
      * he included the possible destruction of Paris in his threat

**10 August**

August 10, 1792

* a group of irritated and frightened Parisians began marching to the Tuileries demanding the king’s abdication
* Louis and his family fled to the Legislative Assembly for asylum
  + the LA suspended Louis from office and declared a new constitutional convention should be convened

**September Massacres**

September 2, 1792 – September 7, 1792

* continued fear over the approach of Prussian troops erupted into violence
* mobs stormed prisons and attacked prisoners, many were mutilated
  + many prisoners were feared to be counter-revolutionaries who would aid the Prussians if they reached Paris
* in total, roughly 1200 - 1400 prisoners were condemned and immediately executed in summary trials held in prisons

**National Convention**

September 20, 1792 – October 26, 1795

* three major leaders emerge
  + Maximilien Robespierre – becomes the architect of The Terror
  + Jean-Paul Marat – supporter of the September Massacres
  + Georges Danton – incited the storming of the Tuileries
* vocab for the National Convention
  + Jacobins: educated members of the Third Estate; began with mainstream ideas but over time became increasingly radical as more conservative members left to form their own club; originally included members such as Robespierre, Marat, and Danton as well as a future king of France, Louis Philippe
  + Girondists: supported the war and extreme measures against nobles and clergy but did not support popular violence – will be forced out of the Jacobins
  + The Mountain: Girondists known as the Mountain because they sat in the highest seats in the hall
  + sans-culottes: literally people “without breeches;” known as such because nobles wore short pants (breeches) and working people wore long pants

**French monarchy abolished**

September 21, 1792

* day after the Convention was created
* Horrible Histories summary video

**Citizen Louis Capet goes to the guillotine**

January 21, 1793

* afterward England and Spain entered the war against France
* war was going badly; riots erupted, the French military commander abandoned his post (4/5/1793) and fled to Austria
* food prices rose

**Committee of Public Safety**

April 6, 1793 – August 1795

* created by the National Convention as a smaller, more efficient governing body out of fear following the defection of the military commander
* originally led by Danton
* Robespierre elected to the COPS July 27, 1793
* Robespierre, known as “the Incorruptible” eventually ruled as a virtual dictator until his execution; held power over the Revolutionary Tribunal (court which sentenced more people to death under Robespierre’s brief tenure than during the entire rest of the revolution)
  + has Danton arrested and sent to the guillotine in April 1794
  + he began the Terror with a law set to enforce food prices and mandatory food collection to feed Paris

**Marat assassinated**

July 13, 1793

* a former doctor (to the future Charles X of France)
* when the revolution began he gave up science and became a journalist
* published his own newspapers
  + denounced Necker and the Marquis de La Fayette
    - had to flee to London for safety
  + upon his return to France he spent some time seeking safety in the sewers of Paris
* had a debilitating skin condition that caused severe itching
* retired from the Convention and spent time soaking in a medicinal bath
* was there when a royalist sympathizer, Charlotte Corday came in and stabbed him
  + during her trial she said “I killed one man to save 100,000” believing that Marat’s paper was stirring up the Terror even more and driving more executions

**Revolutionary calendar begins**

September 22, 1793

**Reign of Terror**

September 5, 1793 – July 28, 1794

**Cult of the Supreme Being established**

May 7, 1794

* meant to become the state religion of France
* established by Robespierre
* loses its impact upon Robespierre’s execution
* ultimately banned by Napoleon

**Robespierre executed**

July 28, 1794

**Austria makes peace with France**

April 1795

* La Marsellaise composed and played for the first time during the war; adopted as France’s anthem in 1795

**Constitution of 1795**

September 23, 1795

**13 Vendémiaire**

October 5, 1795

* National Convention is still ruling while elections are held
* an uprising in the countryside has spread to Paris
* NC says they will stay in their meeting rooms until the riot is quelled
* under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte an assault on the NC was repelled despite a numerical advantage of 6 to 1
* Napoleon becomes a national hero and is given command of the French army in Italy

**Directory**

November 2, 1795 – November 10, 1799

* created by the Constitution of 1795
* executive branch consisting of five directors ruled alongside 750 elected legislators
  + 2/3 of them were required to be elected form the membership of the National Convention

**Consulate**

November 10, 1799 – May 18, 1804