FRENCH REVOLUTION-THREE ESTATES

Directions: Read the following and complete the related activities.

French Society in the late 18th Century was divided between distinct classes or groups in society. At the top of society was Louis XVI, the absolute monarch of France. He believed that his authority to rule came from God and that any decision that Louis XVI made had to be obeyed by everyone within France.

In the 1780's the population of France numbered about 24,700,000, and it was divided into three estates or orders. The estate to which a person

Louis XVI of France.

belonged was very important because it determined that person's rights, obligations and status. Usually a person remained in one estate for his or her lifetime, and any movement from upwards in the estate system could take many generations. This is the period before the French Revolution and is a time known as the Ancien Regime.

The *First Estate* was made up of the Roman Catholic clergy who numbered about 100,000 in the 1780's. The clergy included people such as: monks, nuns, parish priests and bishops. The clergy was divided in that the higher church positions, like bishops, were held by members of the nobility, while positions in lower clergy were often held by members of the peasant class. The Church had many privileges, including the collection of tithes. Tithes are one-tenth of a person's income which is formally taken in support of the church and clergy. Also, the Church did not pay land taxes, even though it owned about 6% of the land and was very wealthy.

The *Second Estate* consisted of the French nobility, which numbered about 400,000 people. The nobles owned about 20% of the land and had many feudal privileges. For example, they were exempt from paying many taxes and were allowed to collect dues from the peasants. The nobility occupied most of the powerful positions in the army, Church and government.

The nobility of France in the 1780's.

All other people in France, about 98% of the population belonged to the *Third Estate*. This group included: merchants, lawyers, poor laborers, and ordinary peasants. They paid most of the taxes collected by the government but were generally looked down upon by the nobility. They resented the power of the Church and the nobility.

FRENCH REVOLUTION-THREE ESTATES

1. The following cartoon was made during the years of the French Revolution. Use the arrows to identify the estate or order that each person is representing. Also, include a brief explanation as to what makes you believe that person is representing the estate or order. Reference any symbolism or imagery that supports your response.

le Peuple sous l'ancien Régime

2. What is the main idea that the cartoon is expressing in regards to French society before the French Revolution? Explain your reasoning by referencing any symbolism or imagery that supports your response.

FRENCH REVOLUTION–THREE ESTATES

Using the information from the reading, and what you've already learned about French society before the French Revolution, create a visual (graphic organizer, mind map, infographic, etc.) to show the inequalities that existed during the Ancien Regime among the different groups of French society. Your visual **must** have all of the following elements:

1. It must represent all of the different groups in French society during the Ancien Regime, including: the Monarchy, Clergy, Nobility and Peasants.
2. It must contain detailed information on each of the above groups in order to describe their position in society, and show how each group differed from each other.
3. It must contain general information on the overall society of France during the Ancien Regime, including aspects such as population, etc.
4. It must contain a visual element that highlights the inequalities in French society during the Ancien Regime.

You are encouraged to be as creative as possible in presenting your information for this assignment. Focus on presenting your information in a creative and innovative was that is also easily accessible to viewers.

PROJECT RUBRIC

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Required Elements and Accuracy	The project includes all required elements and are exceptionally accurate.	All required elements are included on the project, and only minor errors are present in accuracy.	Some of the required elements are included on the project, and there are many issues with accuracy.	Most required elements were missing, and the project lacks accuracy.
Quality of Evidence	Provides specific, and relevant support.	Provides appropriate support that may contain errors.	General or incomplete support.	Obvious or irrelevant support.
Development of Ideas	The project shows an exceptionally in-depth base of content and knowledge and includes thorough explanations.	Project displays a very in-depth base of content and knowledge.	Project displays only some in-depth content and knowledge, and the ideas are straight forward.	Project appears to have insufficient in-depth content and knowledge, and contains limited ideas.
Understanding of Issue	Shows a strong understanding of the issue.	Shows a clear understanding of the issue.	Shows a limited understanding of the issue.	Shows little to no understanding of the issue.
Communication		Writing is clear, accurate, and effective with well-organized ideas.	Writing is satisfactory with only minor errors but does not interfere with the message.	Writing is unclear and difficult to distinguish the message.
Organization and Design		The project is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.	The project is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.	The project is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. It is not attractive.

Name(s): _____ Class: _____

Overall Mark: _____ / 22

FRENCH REVOLUTION–THREE ESTATES

1. The following cartoon was made during the years of the French Revolution. Use the arrows to identify the estate or order that each person is representing. Also, include a brief explanation as to what makes you believe that person is representing the estate or order. Reference any symbolism or imagery that supports your response.

-Clergy or Church

-The character looks has a cross and is dressed like a priest.

-Monarchy or Louis XVI

-The character looks like Louis XVI and he is holding the reins symbolizing that he is in control.

-Nobility

-The character shows as wealthy and is the last "high order" estate that is otherwise not represented in the image.

-Peasant

-The character looks poor and malnourished suggesting that they represent the lowest in society. As well, the character is being ridden by the others suggesting that he carries the rest of the members of society.

*** This page could be assessed for marks or it could be assessed as a class discussion to exchange ideas and insights among the students.

le Peuple Sous l'ancien Regime

2. What is the main idea that the cartoon is expressing in regards to French society before the French Revolution? Explain your reasoning by referencing any symbolism or imagery that supports your response.

The cartoon is showcasing the inequalities in French society in that it is displaying how the peasants (Third Estate) carried and supported the others. As well, the "skeletal" nature of the peasant represents how the peasants would have felt by their lowered position in society and the effect it was having on them.

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The intention of this assignment is for students to take the information from the reading and cartoon analysis (and any other information either learned in class, or from other research sources) and to create a visual display that highlights the inequalities in French society that would eventually lead to the outbreak of the French Revolution. A rubric has been included for assessment purposes. This project can be completed in groups or individually based on the needs of the teacher. The premise behind this project is the "Three Estates Pyramid" (pictured below) but requires the students to develop it much further. I typically only show the students the pyramid after completing this assignment, so as not to guide them to create more pyramids. For examples of mind maps or infographics, do a simple Google images search to show students examples of both. Otherwise, students can be as creative and innovative as possible in their choice of style.

**1st estate:
The Clergy**
People who
worked in the
Church

2nd estate: The Nobility
The king and queen, nobles of
the sword: princess of royal blood,
dukes, marquises, counts, viscounts,
barons, knights, and nobles of the robe

3rd estate: Everyone Else
Includes lawyers, doctors, businessmen, merchants,
soldiers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, peasants