Vive la Erancel	
Vive la France! The French Revolution	
Who?	
 The people of France revolted against the 	
monarchy ® King Louis XVI	
Queen Marie Antoinette – Austrian princess - daughter of Holy Roman Emperor	
 Married 1770 to strengthen alliance between France & Austria 	
What?	
 When the French people attempted to end 	
 When the French people attempted to end the age of absolute monarchy 	

When?		
• 1789-1799		
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Where?		
• Paris, France		
Later spread around France		
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Wh. 2		
Why?		
Life was decided by your social class		
97% of people were peasants		
 Gap between rich & poor created resentment This was true all over Europe, but espec. In 		
France	-	
3 Estates (social classes)		

1st Estate

-religious leaders -rcvd 10% tithe on land, to be used to fund church -much used to pay for extravagant lifestyles



2nd Estate

- -Nobility
- -inherited social class
- -2% of the people
- -collected dues from those living on their lands



3rd Estate

- -Peasant workers/ farmers
- -Little political power -Few rights
- -Tithe to church, dues to land-holding lords, taxes to the king



Why?

- They saw American Revolution of 1776
- Louis XVI supported American side
 - ⊕ Increased already huge debt of France

Why?

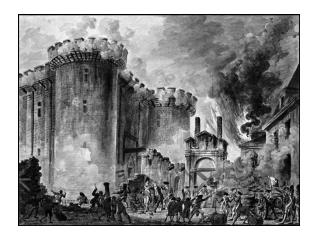
- Louis XVI & wife Marie Antoinette desperate to pay off debts
 - But not so desperate they want to change their lavish lifestyles
- Decided to tax 1st & 2nd estates
- They rebelled
- A meeting was called, 3rd estate people were left out

Why?

- They held their own meeting
- Created the "National Assembly"
- King forced members of 1st & 2nd estates to join the National Assembly

Why?

- National Assembly started making new constitution
- King placed troops all over Paris
- National Assembly attacked the Bastille
 - Where ammo & weapons were stored



Why?

- Violence spread throughout France
- Peasants rose up against noble lords
- Broke into mansions & took over
- "The Great Fear"



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- Peasants finally created a constitution
- King refused to acknowledged it
- Demanded he move into Paris
- Forced King to accept constitution, 1791

So what happened?

- King & Queen tried to escape to Austria (where she was from)
 - Her brother was emperor of Austria

Caught sneaking out & brought back to Paris forced to stay in their home as prisoners

So what happened?

 France declares war on Austria (in defense of their new republic)

So what happened?

- 1792 Louis tried for conspiring against the National Assembly gov't
 - ® Put to death by guillotine
 - ® Wife guillotined 9 mos. later

Geographic Causes

- Weather...
 - ⊕ Harsh cold
 - Snow blocking roads
 - ⊕ Harvests 1788-1789 poor

Geographic Causes

- Weather...
 - ® Probably due to El Nino
 - ⊕ Due to volcano in Iceland 1783
 - © Crop failures all over Europe

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Geographic Causes

- Weather...
 - Melting snow caused floods
 - ⊕ Drought 1789 very hot & dry
 - Crops got even worse
 - Wheat (main crop) couldn't take these extremes
 - Note: other parts of Europe had started growing potatoes – much hardier

Geographic Causes

- Food prices up by 50%
- Peasants couldn't afford food
- Moved to cities looking for work
 - © Created growing poor class in cities

Rumors...

- 1st & 2nd estates were purposely withholding bread
- Marie Antoinette "Let the eat cake!"

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