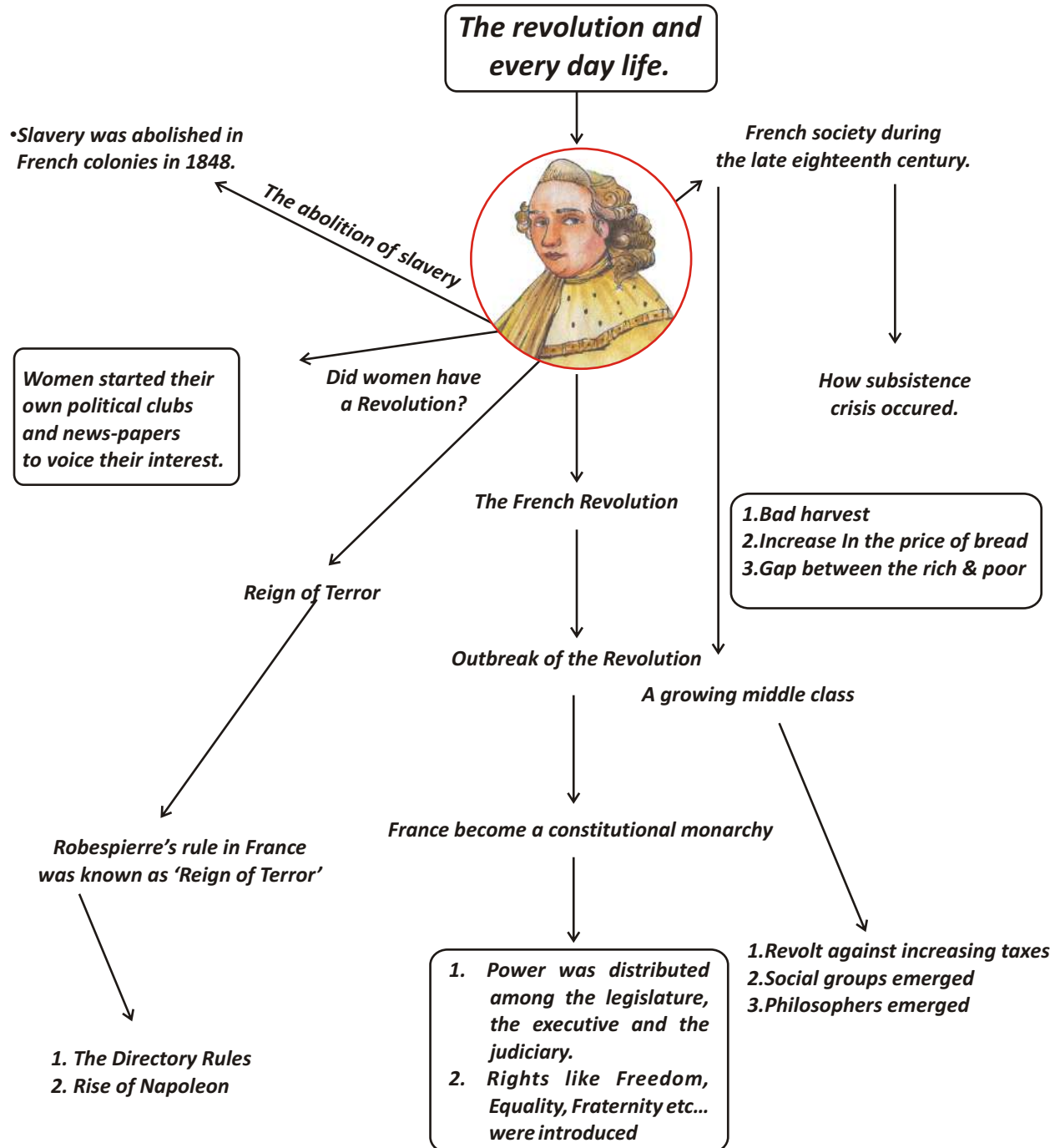


Preface

This Graphic Novel - The French Revolution, is a history of modern world which unfolds many areas like freedom, democracy, violence, death, tyranny and destruction. The content in the book gives a detailed study with beautiful pictures and exciting dialogues. The book has shown the rise and fall of the French Empire and to know how the contemporary world has evolved. In this book you will discover how history can be interesting and how it helps to understand the world in which we live.

Story Board



Characters



Louis XVI

Born: 23 August 1754, Palace of Versailles, Versailles, France

Died: 21 January 1793, Place de la Concorde, Paris, France

Louis XVI was the last Bourbon King of France. He was executed for treason by Guillotine in 1793.

Marie Antoinette

Born: 2 November 1755, The Hofburg, Vienna, Austria

Died: 16 October 1793, Place de la Concorde, Paris, France

Marie Antoinette was the last Queen of France. She was born an Archduchess of Austria and was the penultimate child and youngest daughter of Empress Maria Theresa and Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor.



Napoleon Bonaparte

Born: 15 August 1769, Ajaccio, France

France Died: 5 May 1821, Longwood House

Napoleon Bonaparte was a French statesman and military leader who led several successful campaigns. He crowned himself Emperor of France in 1804.

Maximilien Robespierre

Born: 6 May 1758, Arras, France

Died: 28 July 1794, Place de la Concorde, Paris, France

Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre was a French lawyer and politician who was one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution.



Characters



Mirabeau

Born: 9 March 1749, Le Bignon-Mirabeau, France

Died: 2 April 1791, Paris, France

Mirabeau was a leader of the early stages of the French Revolution. He was a successful orator, a national hero and the leader of the moderate position among revolutionaries.

Montesquieu

Born: 18 January 1689, La Brede, France

Died: 10 February 1755, Paris, France

Montesquieu was a French judge and political philosopher. He is famous for his articulation of the theory of Separation Of Powers, which is implemented in many constitutions throughout the world.



Rousseau

Born: 28 June 1712, Geneva, Switzerland

Died: 2 July 1778, Ermenonville, France

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was a Genevan philosopher, writer and composer. His political philosophy influenced the progress of the Enlightenment throughout Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution.

Voltaire

Born: 21 November 1694, Paris, France

Died: 30 May 1778, Paris, France

Voltaire was a French Enlightenment writer, historian, and philosopher famous for his wit, his criticism of Christianity, especially the Roman Catholic Church, as well as his advocacy of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state.



French Society during the late Eighteenth Century

1st Estate

Clergy

Enjoyed privileges by birth

Invested with special functions
in the church

2nd Estate

Nobility

Enjoyed privileges by birth

Enjoyed feudal privileges

3rd Estate



Big Businessmen, Merchants,
Court Officials, Lawyers etc.



Peasants and artisans

Small peasants,
landless labour, servants

Peasants were forced to provide services to the
lords - to work in their fields and houses, serve in
army and participate in building roads.

Church imposed direct
and indirect taxes

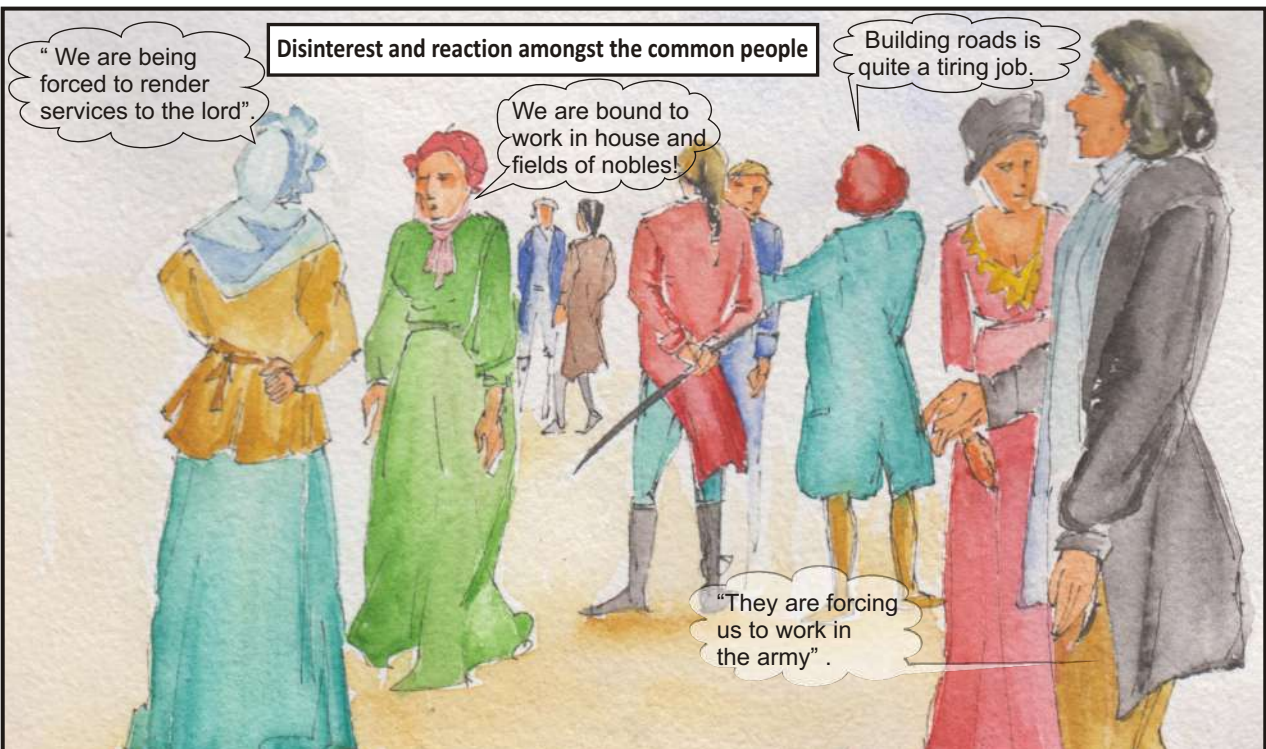
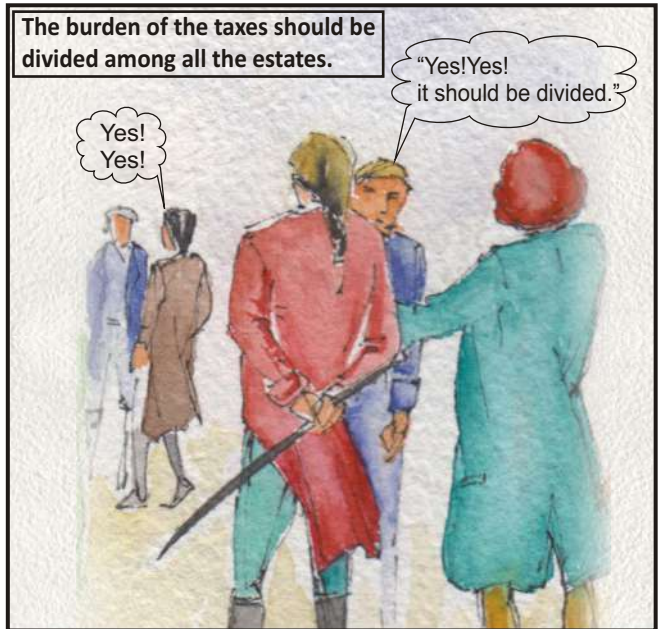
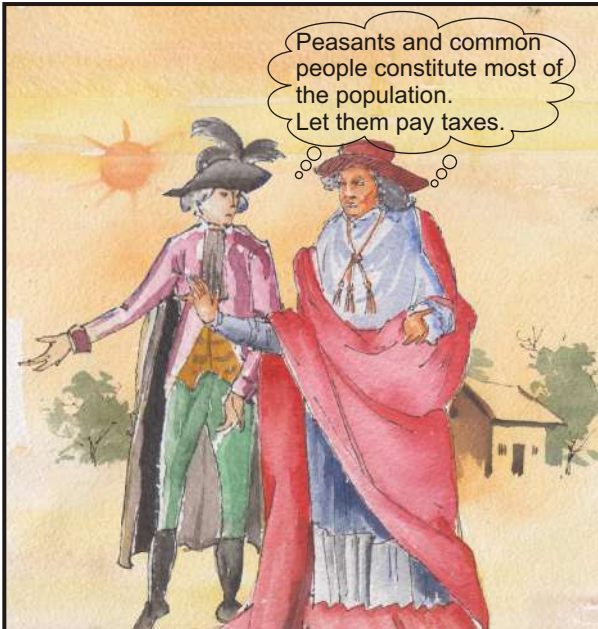
In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France.



France was deep in debt for spending too much on wars and the lavish lifestyle of the royal family.



The nobles, the clergy, the lenders and the king took the historic decision of burdening the third estate with all the taxes.



The news that Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes to be able to meet the expenses of the state, was not well received by the common man. They reacted.

Protest!

We will not pay more taxes! We need liberty!

Protest!

We want to Protest!

Protest!

We need to Protest!



The church also left no stone unturned to burden the third estate.

We are also imposing a few taxes!

No! No! don't overburden us!



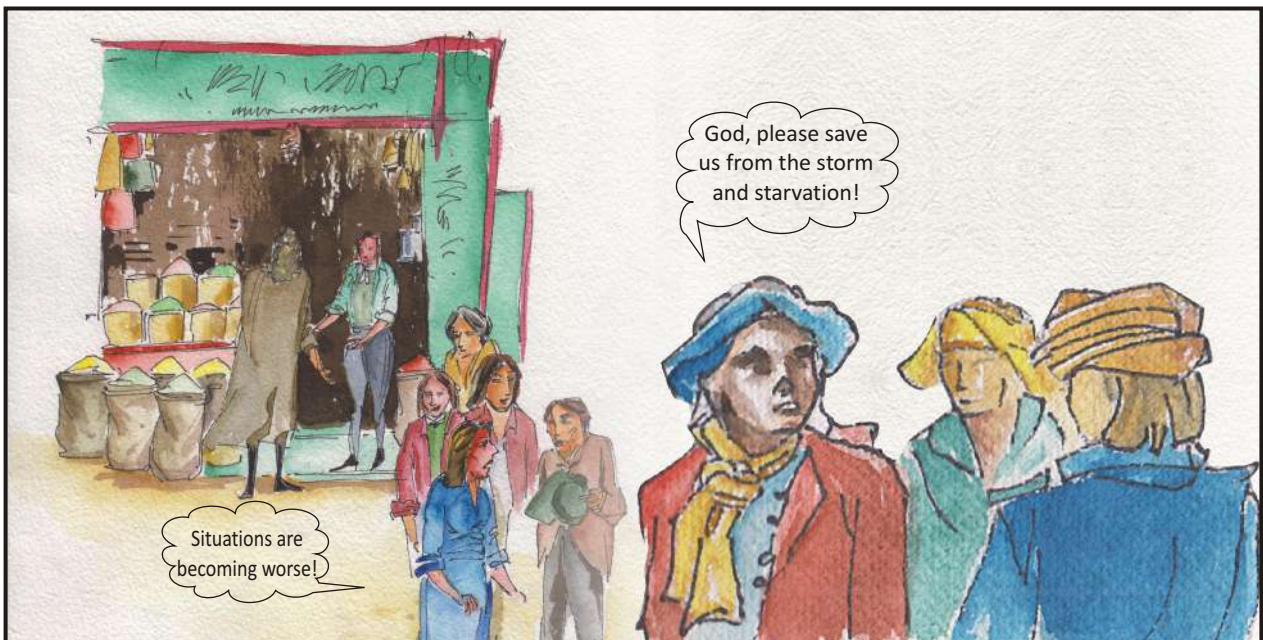
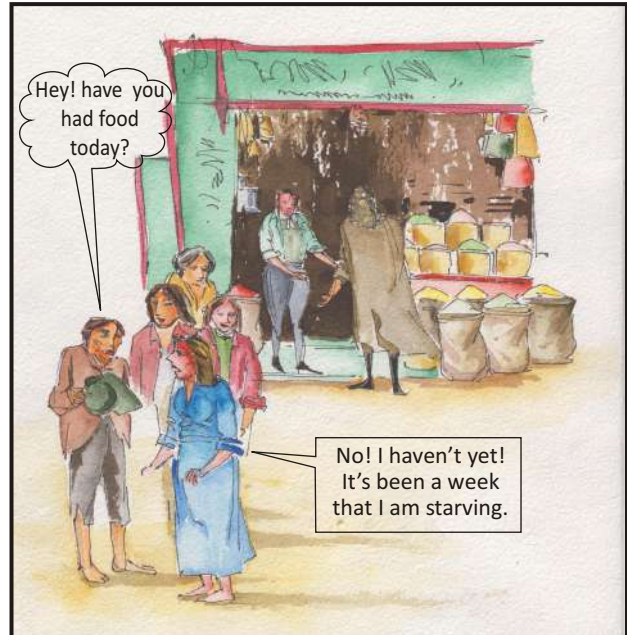
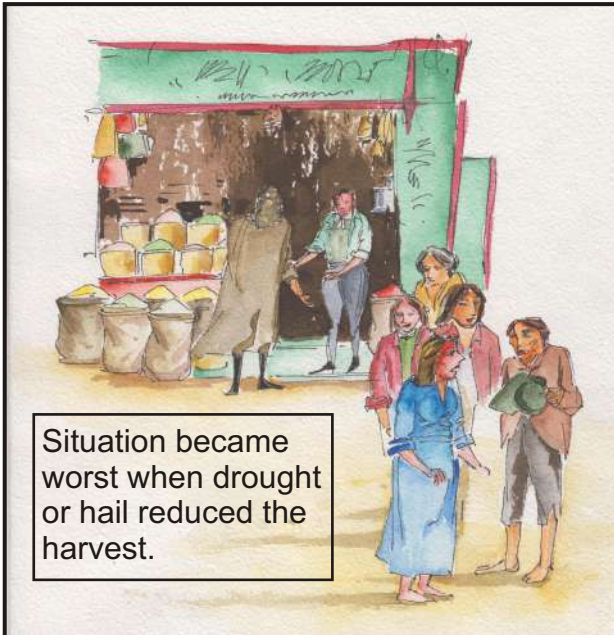
But the third estate is destined to pay taxes for using salt or tobacco or even eating food.

And the third estate was finally buried under the taxes – "the tithe" and "the taille".



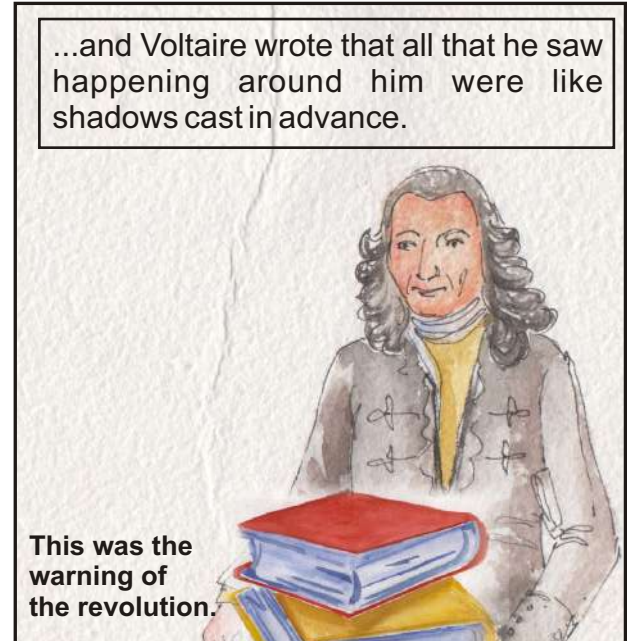
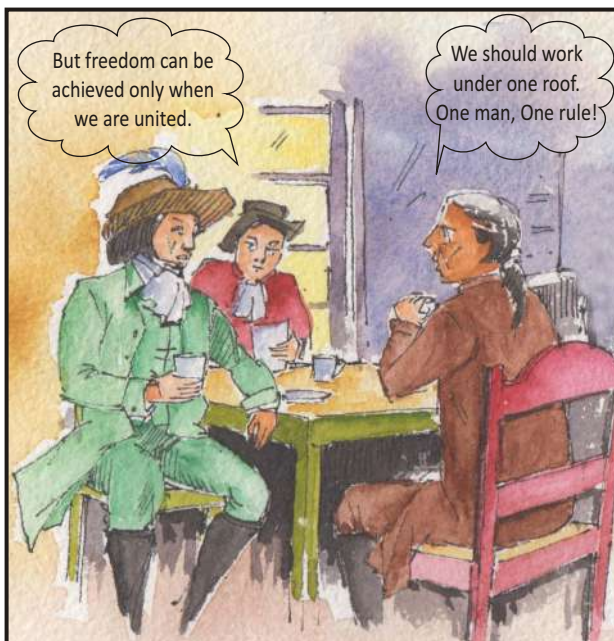
Subsistence Crisis

On the other hand, due to increase in population the demand for food grains increased. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. As a result price of bread increased which affected the labour. This led to subsistence crisis.



This led to the emergence of social groups in the middle class.

The works of social reformers like Montesquieu , Rousseau and Voltaire were avidly read and reproduced in pamphlets that were widely circulated and discussed in salons and coffee shops.



Philosophers & Social Reformers



Voltaire



Montesquieu



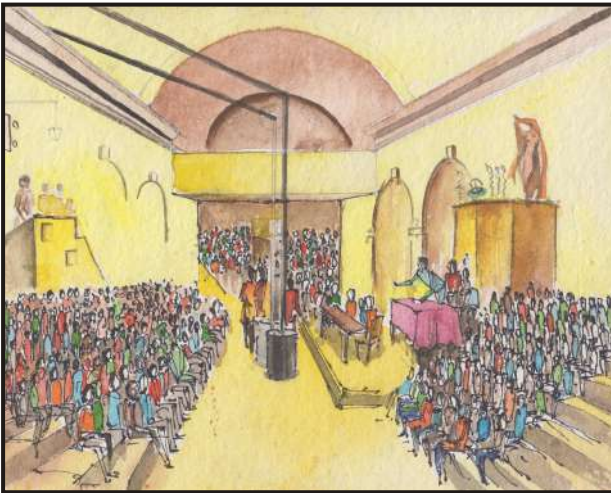
Mirabeau



Rousseau

The outbreak of the revolution

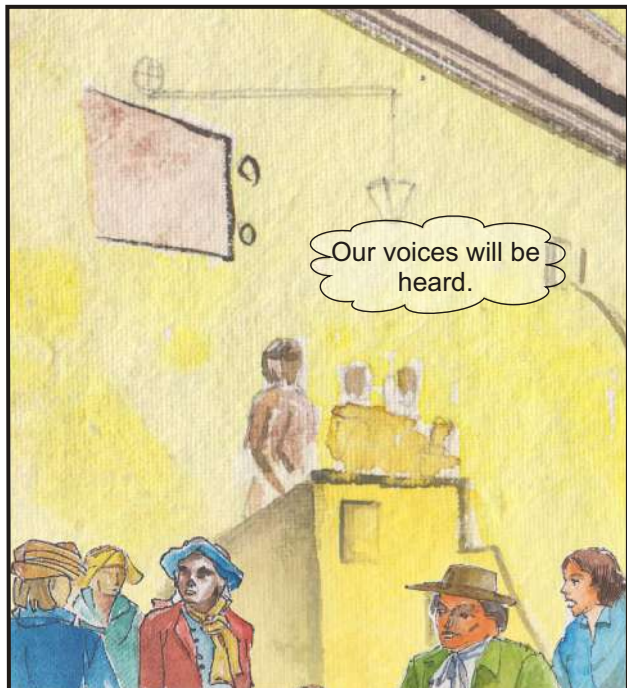
On 5th May 1789, Louis XVI called the meeting of estate general to pass the proposal of new taxes. First and second estate sent 300 representatives each and the third estate sent 600 representatives.



3rd Estate decides to send as many representatives

We make up 90% of the total population. We should have right of 1 person and 1 vote.

"No you cannot have the right of **'1 Person, 1 Vote'** you are our servants".



Tennis Court Oath



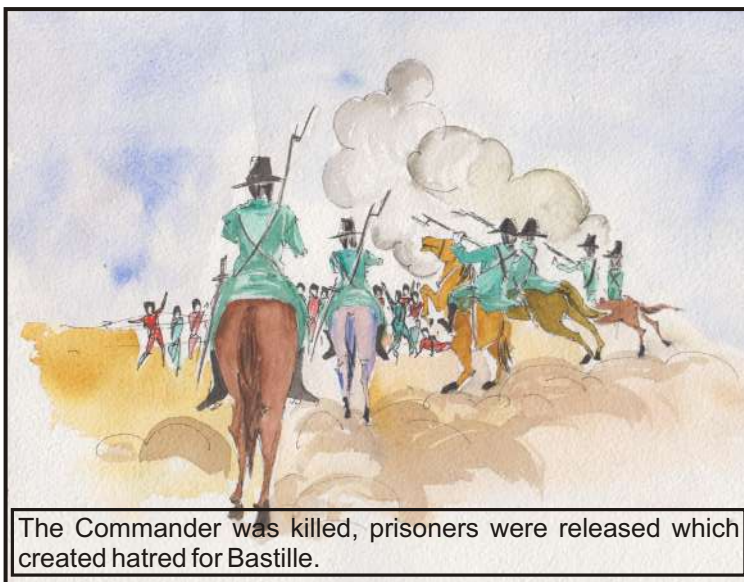
On 20 June, 3rd estate assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the ground of Versailles and pledged not to leave until a new constitution was written.



Thus marking the beginning of a New Era.

Storming of the Bastille

14 July 1789, the city (Paris) is in a state of alarm. People are angry that Louis XVI threatened the leaders of National Assembly for arrest.



Life of people during French Revolution

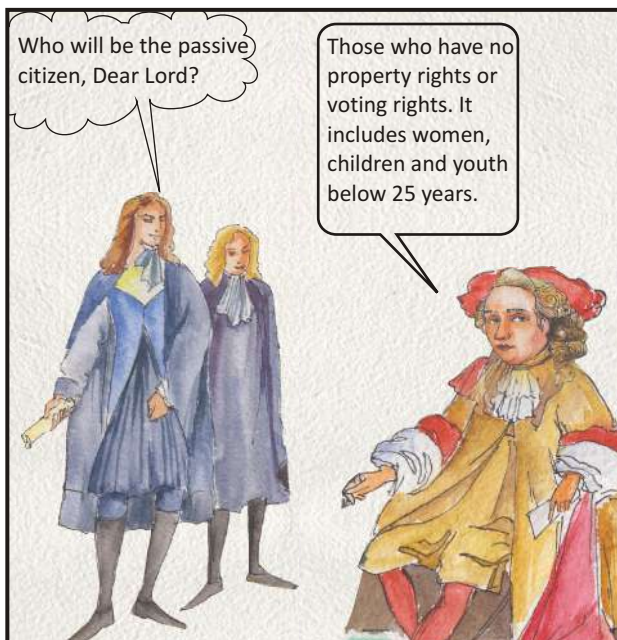
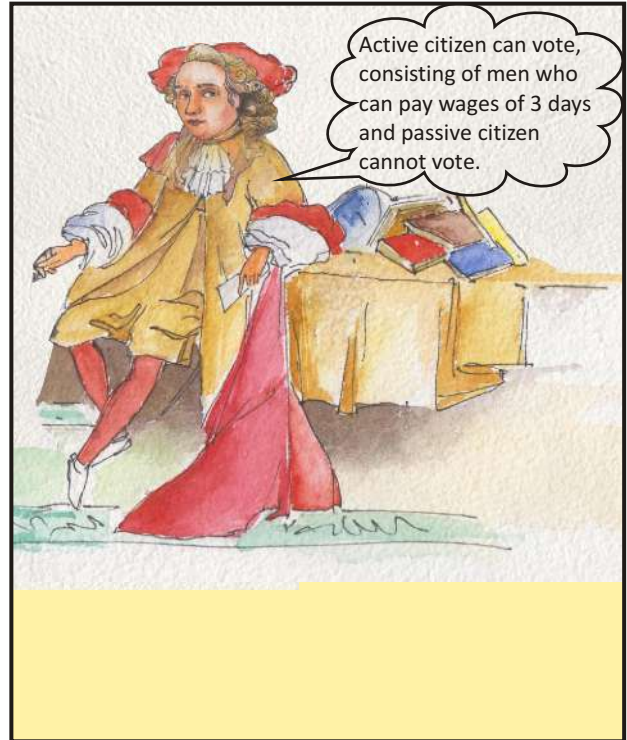
- Abolition of censorship was celebrated. Towns flooded with newspapers, pamphlets, books & printed pictures.
- Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large number of people.
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed Freedom of Speech and Expression to be their natural right.
- Now, the French people could practice ideas given by the social philosophers like Montesquieu and Voltaire.



After the revolution led by National Assembly, Louis XVI finally accepted the principle that his powers would now be checked by a constitution.



The constitution of 1791 vested the power to make laws in the National Assembly, which was indirectly elected.



Constitution began with

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen



1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.
4. Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.
5. Law can only prohibit such actions as are hurtful to the society. Nothing may be prevented which is not forbidden by law, and no one may be forced to do anything not provided for by law.

6. Law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes. All citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law, are equally eligible to all dignities and to all public positions and occupations, according to their abilities, and without distinction except that of their virtues and talents.
7. No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law. Any one soliciting, transmitting, executing, or causing to be executed, any arbitrary order, shall be punished. But any citizen summoned or arrested in virtue of the law shall submit without delay, as resistance constitutes an offense.
8. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary, and no one shall suffer punishment except it be legally inflicted in virtue of a law passed and promulgated before the commission of the offense.
9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty, if arrest shall be deemed indispensable, all harshness not essential to the securing of the prisoner's person shall be severely repressed by law.
10. No one shall be disquieted on account of his opinions, including his religious views, provided their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.
11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom, but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law.
12. The security of the rights of man and of the citizen requires public military forces. These forces are, therefore, established for the good of all and not for the personal advantage of those to whom they shall be intrusted.
13. A common contribution is essential for the maintenance of the public forces and for the cost of administration. This should be equitably distributed among all the citizens in proportion to their means.
14. All the citizens have a right to decide, either personally or by their representatives, as to the necessity of the public contribution; to grant this freely; to know to what uses it is put; and to fix the proportion, the mode of assessment and of collection and the duration of the taxes.
15. Society has the right to request of an account from any public agent of its administration.
16. A society in which the observance of the law is not assured, nor the separation of powers defined, has no constitution at all.
17. Since property is an inviolable and sacred right, no one shall be deprived thereof except where public necessity, legally determined, shall clearly demand it and then only on condition that the owner shall have been previously and equitably indemnified.

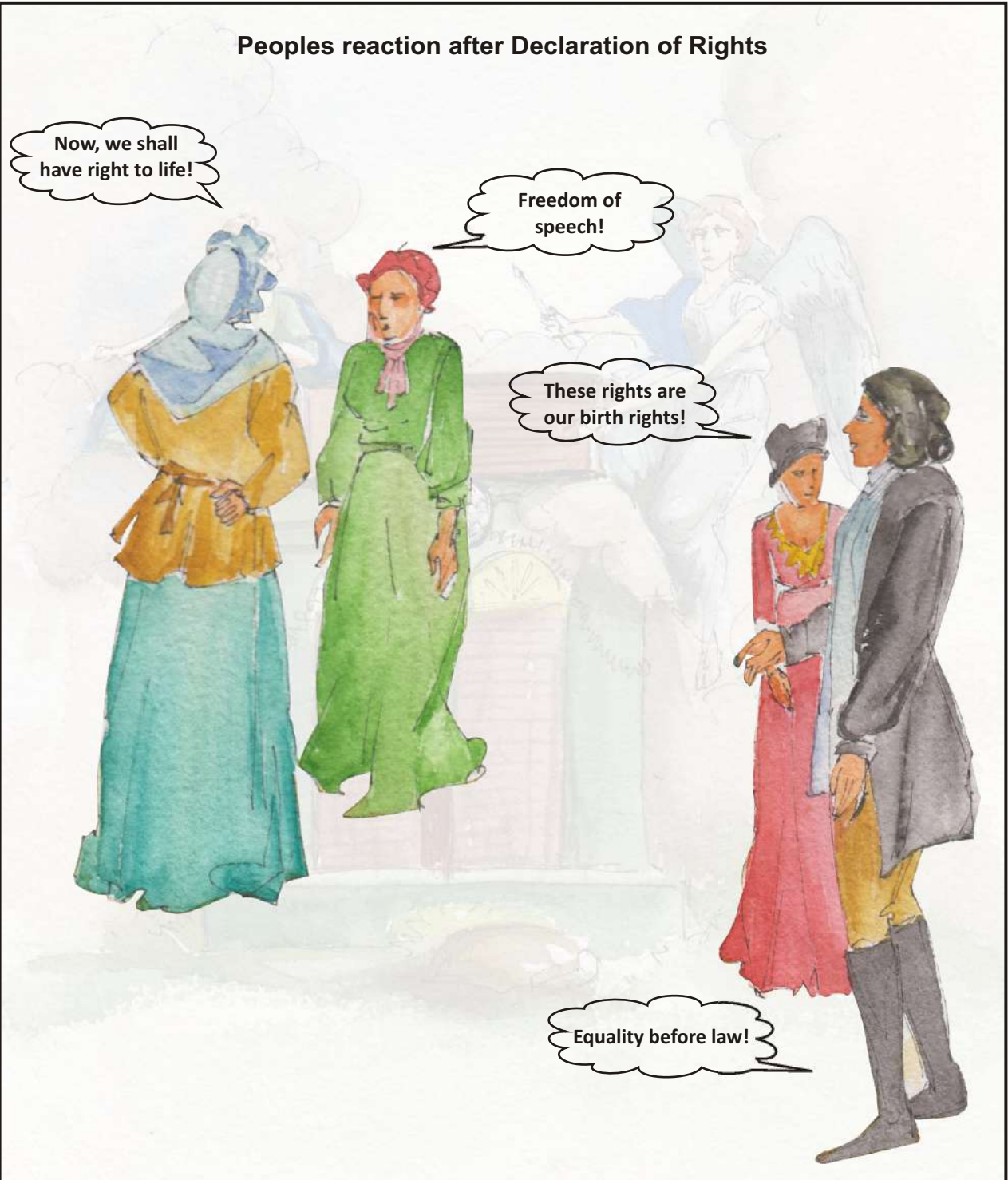
Peoples reaction after Declaration of Rights

Now, we shall
have right to life!

Freedom of
speech!

These rights are
our birth rights!

Equality before law!



Political symbols

Majority of men and women in the eighteenth century could not read nor write. So images and symbols were frequently used instead of printed words to communicate important ideas. These symbols were used to convey the content of the declaration of rights.

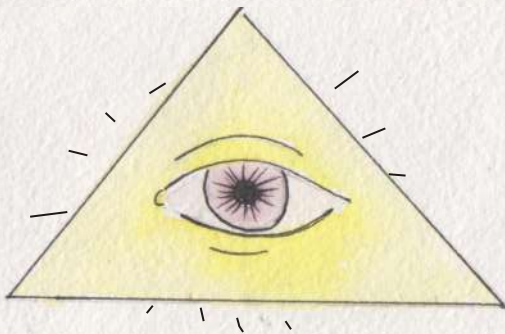
The broken chain : Chains were used to fetter slaves. A broken chain stands for the act of becoming free.



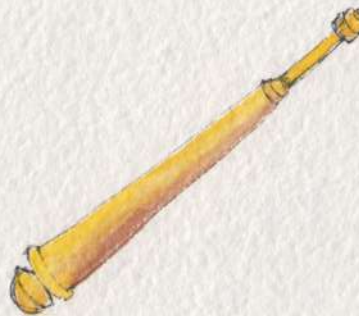
The bundle of rods or fasces : One rod can be easily broken, but not an entire bundle. Strength lies in unity.



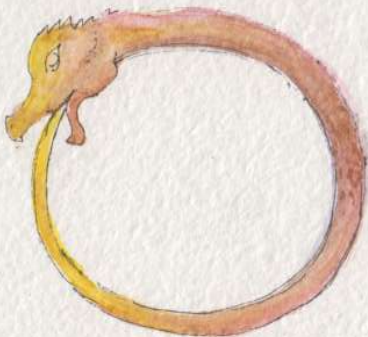
The eye within a triangle radiating light : The all-seeing eye stands for knowledge. The rays of the sun will drive away the clouds of ignorance.



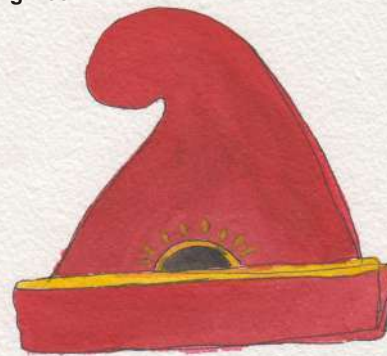
Sceptre : Symbol of royal power.



Snake biting its tail to form a ring : Symbol of Eternity. A ring has neither beginning nor end.



Red Phrygian cap : Cap worn by a slave upon becoming free.

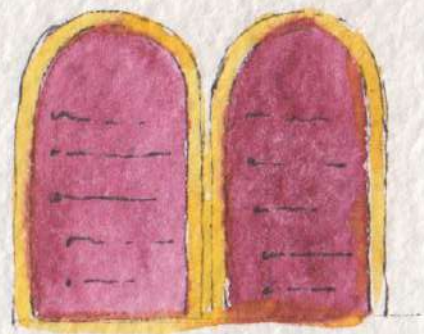


Blue-white-red: The national colours of France



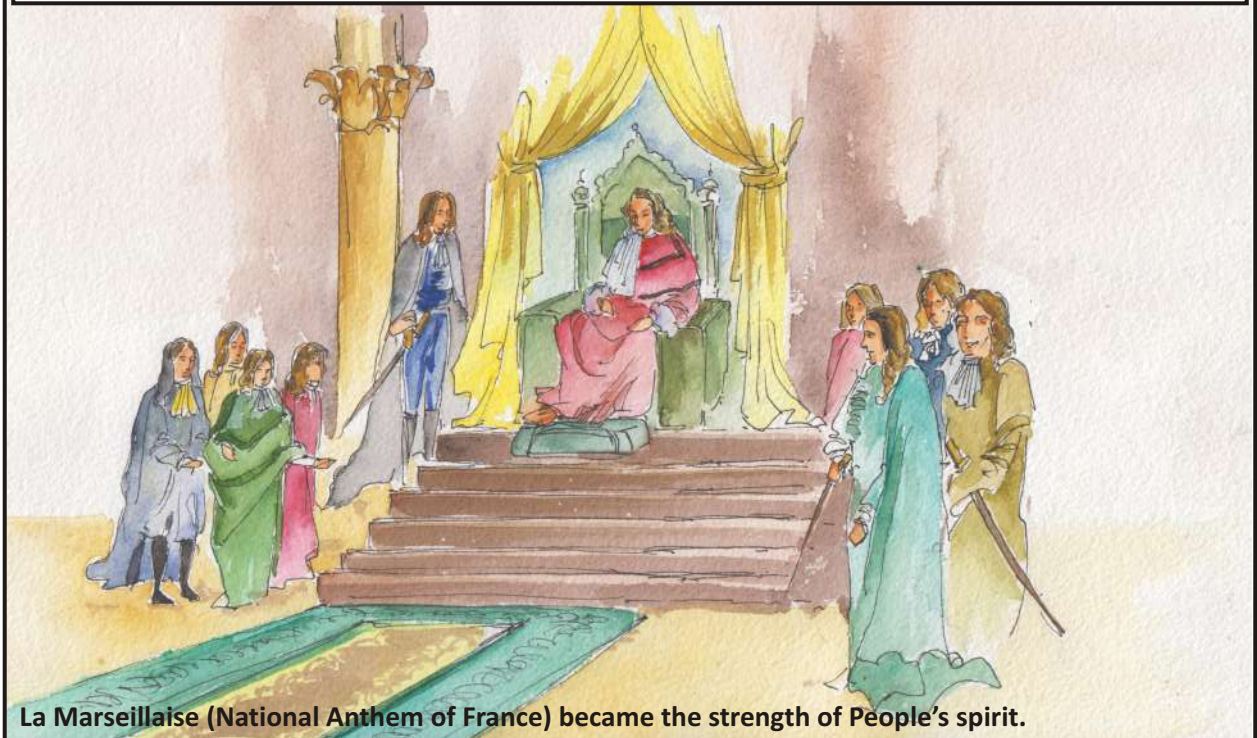
The winged woman : Personification of the law.

The Law Tablet :
The law is the same for all, and all are equal before it.



France Abolishes Monarchy and Becomes a Republic

King Louis entered into secret negotiations with the king of Prussia. National Assembly declared war against Prussia and Austria.



La Marseillaise (National Anthem of France) became the strength of People's spirit.

The revolutionary wars brought loss and economic difficulties to the people.



On 5 October 1789...

Thousands of angry women walked from Paris to the Palace of Versailles to bring the king back with them to Paris.



During this period...

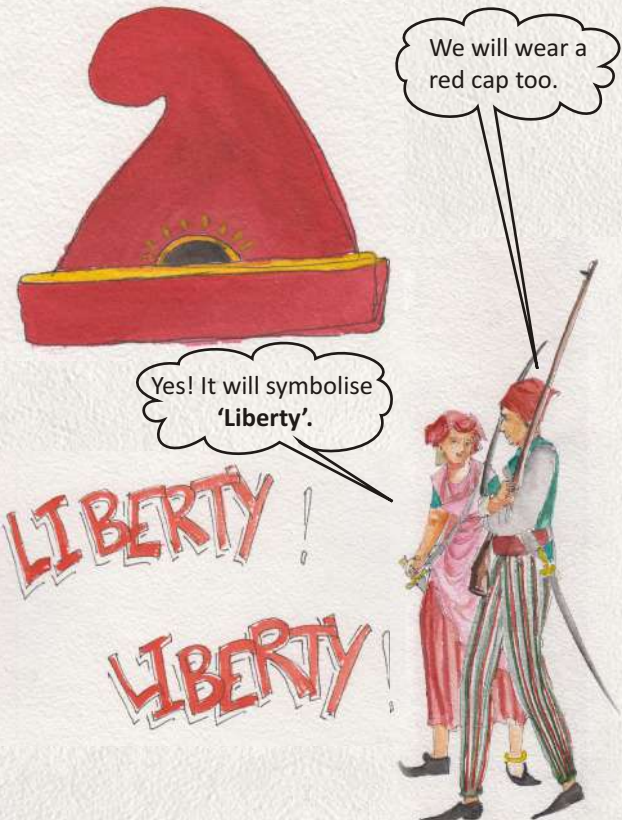
Political clubs became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.

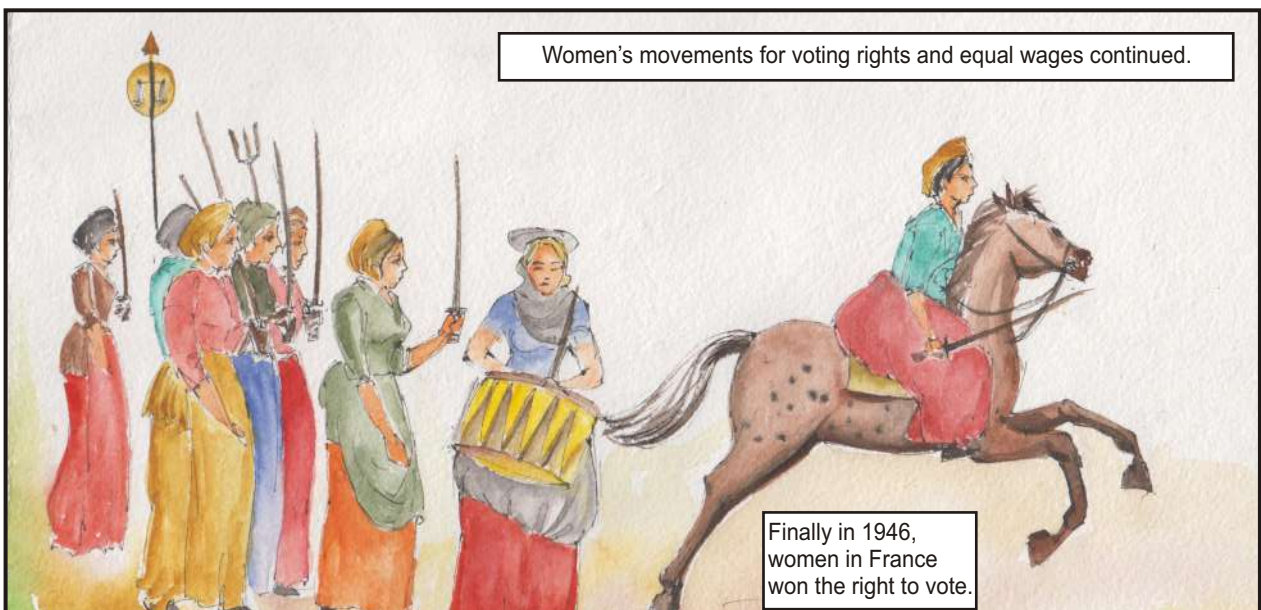
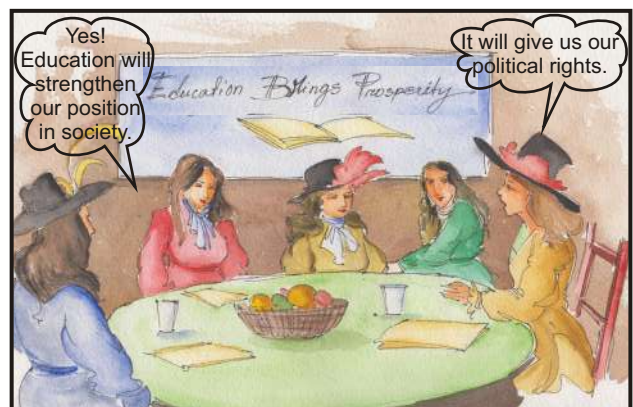
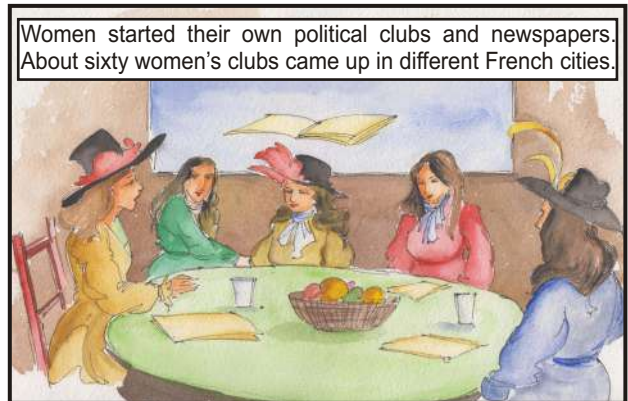
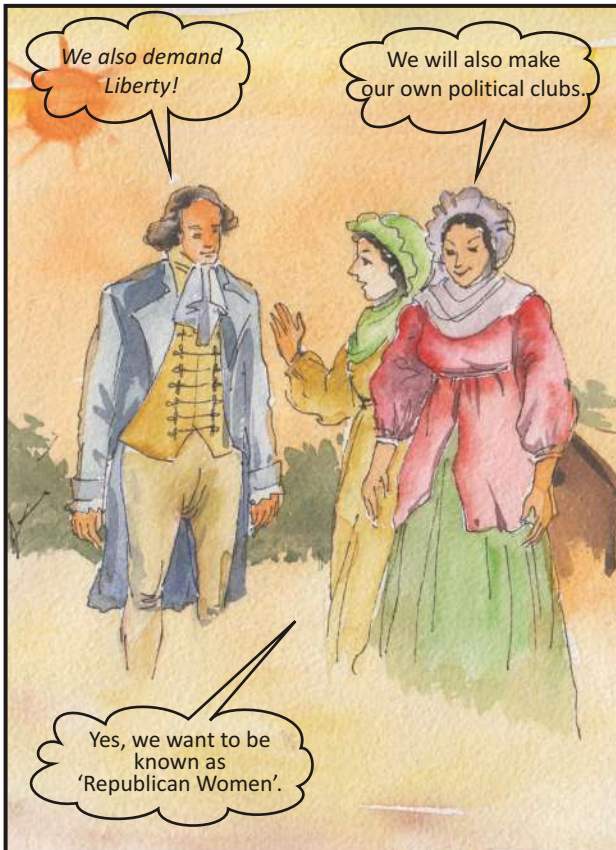
Jacobin club, the most famous political group of the French Revolution.



Maximilien Robespierre was the founder of Jacobin Club.

Robespierre declared that less prosperous people such as small shopkeepers, pastry cooks, watch makers, printers, servants, daily wage workers should join Jacobin clubs.





Soon after, Jacobins planned an insurrection against the Royal family and a new elected assembly "The Convention" was found.

On 21st Sept. 1792
Convention declared
France a republic.

The trial of the king began on December 11.

Yes !
Yes !
Yes!

Should the king
be executed?

Yes !
Yes !
Yes!

Yes !
Yes !
Yes!

Yes !
Yes !
Yes!

The king must be punished
or the Republic becomes a
mere force.

Is the king
guilty?

Louis XVI was sentenced to death. Queen Marie Antoinette met with the same fate.

The Reign of Terror

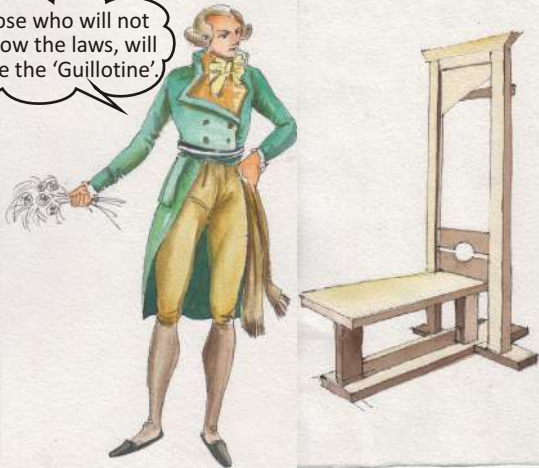
After the death of Louis XVI France was in the control of Jacobins under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre. He followed a policy of severe control and punished people recklessly.



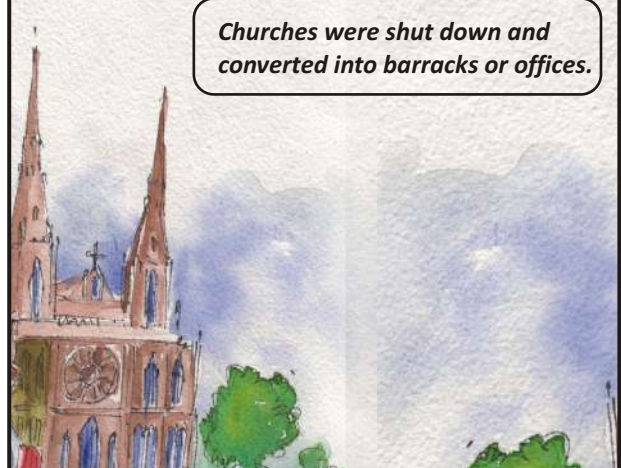
The Guillotine is a device consisting of two poles and a blade with which a person is beheaded, it is named after Dr. Guillotin who invented it.



Those who will not follow the laws, will face the 'Guillotine'.



Churches were shut down and converted into barracks or offices.



Annoyed citizens could not fade away the feeling of moderation. They decided to prosecute Robespierre at court in 1794, by his own punishment technique, the guillotine.



With Robespierre's death, came the end of the terror.

'The Directory Rules' - France

Upper class took the advantage of the death of Robespierre and fall of Jacobin government . They formed their own government which was called 'The Directory Rules'.

Political structure consisted of two legislatures and a directory of five people.



Directory will help to strengthen the government.



How many times will be legislatures be dismissed?

Reformation was not required by this way.

When will we have a stable government?

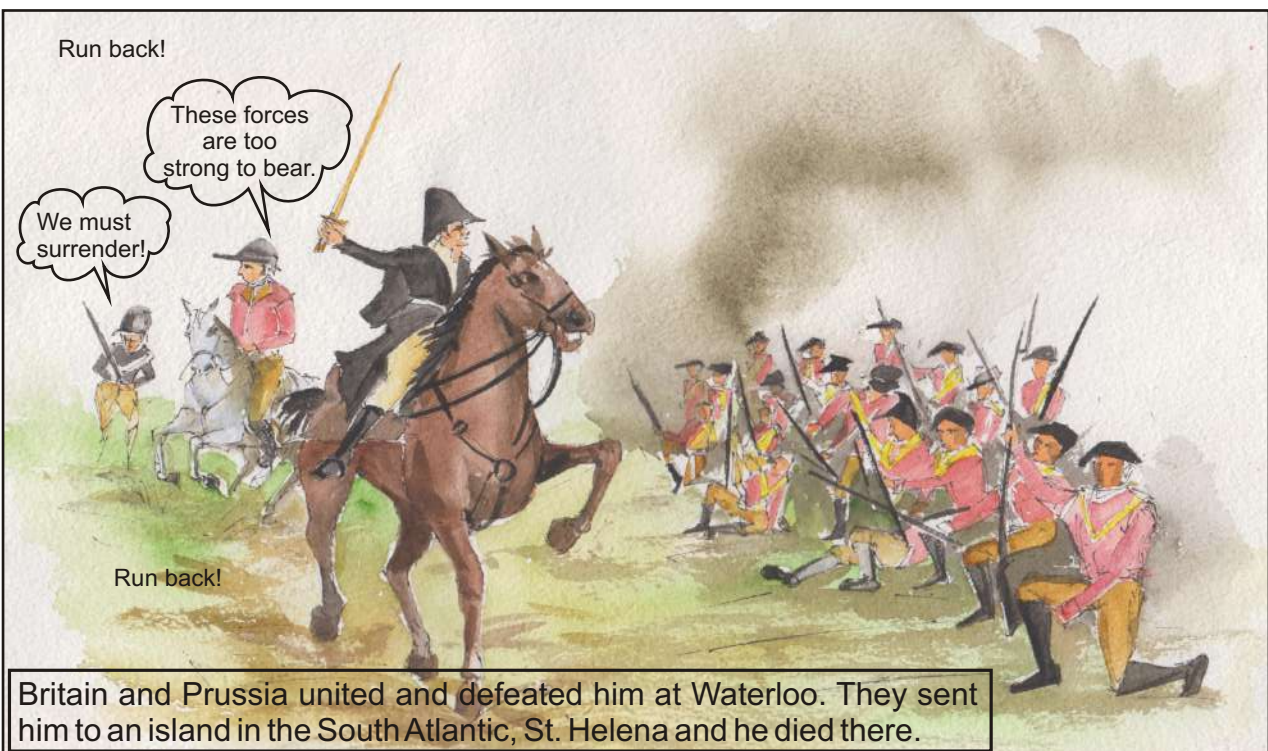
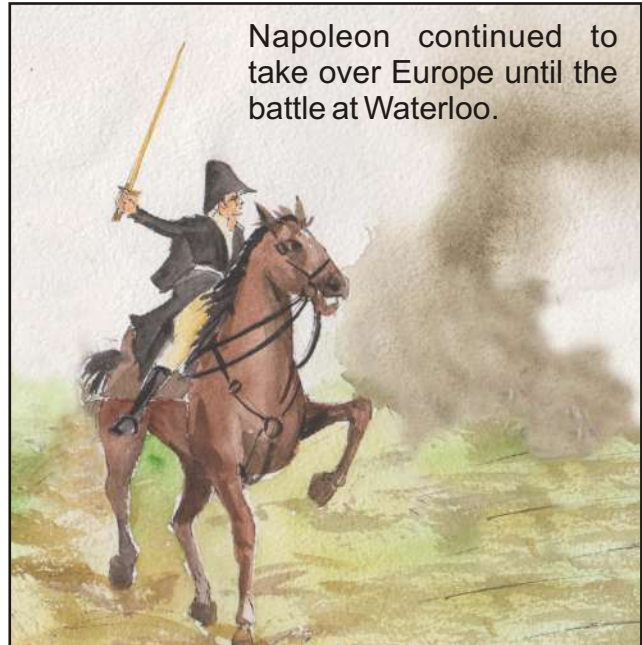
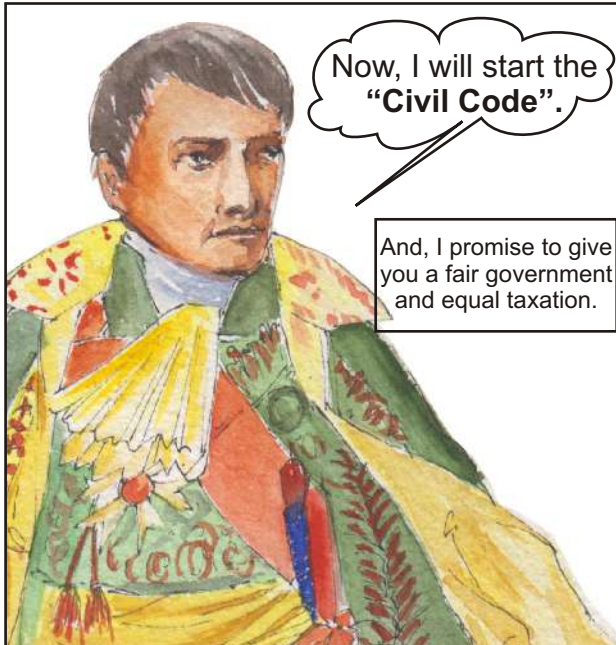


But political instability of Directory paved the way for the rise of the military director Napoleon Bonaparte.



In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France

Napoleon - Rise and Fall



After Napoleon's defeat in the battle of Waterloo, France went through several further regime changes. Being ruled as a Monarchy, then for a brief period as a Second Republic, then as a second Empire, and finally in 1870, French Third Republic was established.



This Revolution opened the doors of political liberation and ended the monarchical regime. The ideas of liberty, equality, fraternity and democratic rights were the most important legacy of the French Revolution.

Timeline

1774 : Louis XVI becomes King of France.

1789 : Convocation of Estate General.

- Third estate forms National Assembly.
- Storming of Bastille .

1791 : Declaration of rights of Man & Citizen.

1792 : France become a Republic.

1793 : Louis XVI executed.

1793-94 : Reign of Terror.

1794 : Maximilien Robespierre executed.

1794 : Directory Rules France.

1804 : Napoleon becomes ruler of France.

1815 : Napoleon Bonaparte gets defeated at the battle of Waterloo.

1848 : Slavery was finally abolished in the French colonies.

1946 : Women in France won the right to vote.