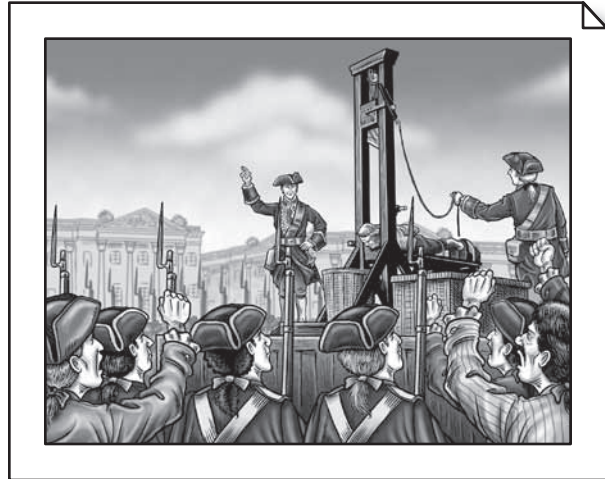




Execution of a King

In 1792, as the French Revolution continued, a group met in Paris at the National Convention. At this meeting, revolutionary leaders decided that France would no longer be ruled by a king. France was now a republic.

For some people, it was not enough to take away the king's power. Many blamed the country's problems on the king. The National Convention put King Louis XVI on trial as a traitor to France. They found him guilty of treason, or betraying his country, and sentenced him to death.



On January 21, 1793, Louis walked calmly to the guillotine. The guillotine was a machine that chopped a person's head off with a huge blade. It was on a platform in a public square. A large audience watched and cheered as Louis climbed to the top of the platform. He was put under the blade of the guillotine. With one stroke, it cut off his head. One of the guards picked up the king's severed head and showed it to the crowd. The audience cheered and shouted, "Long live the republic!"

Not everyone was happy about the king's death. People in some areas of France did not accept the National Convention's authority. They had been loyal to the king. Also, other countries were angry that French revolutionaries had killed the king. A group of countries, including Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, Britain, and the Dutch Republic, joined together. They got ready to invade France. Their goal was to stop the French Revolution.

To protect the revolution, the National Convention started the Committee of Public Safety. Its job was to defend France from foreign threats and from threats at home. The way that the Committee of Public Safety dealt with the crisis became known as the Reign of Terror. The Committee arrested, imprisoned, and killed anyone it thought might be against the revolution. In one year, more than 30,000 people were killed. Of these, about 16,000 people were beheaded by the guillotine. Others died in prison or were killed when their towns were raided.

The Committee faced the international threat by raising a huge army. With over one million soldiers, France's army was the largest in European history. It pushed back the invaders and defeated most of its foreign enemies.

Maximilien Robespierre led the Committee. He was very powerful, and some leaders thought he went too far. In 1794, the National Convention voted to execute Robespierre. He was beheaded. A more moderate set of leaders took over the Committee, and the Reign of Terror ended.



Execution of a King

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The National Convention decided that France would no longer be ruled by a/an _____.

- A. king
- B. president
- C. committee
- D. assembly

2. Louis XVI was found guilty of _____.

- A. stealing
- B. murder
- C. treason
- D. assault

3. The job of the Committee of Public Safety was to _____.

- A. defend France from foreign threats
- B. defend France from threats at home
- C. protect the revolution
- D. all of the above

4. During the Reign of Terror, more than _____ people were killed.

- A. 300
- B. 3,000
- C. 30,000
- D. 300,000

5. Maximilien Robespierre was the leader of the _____.

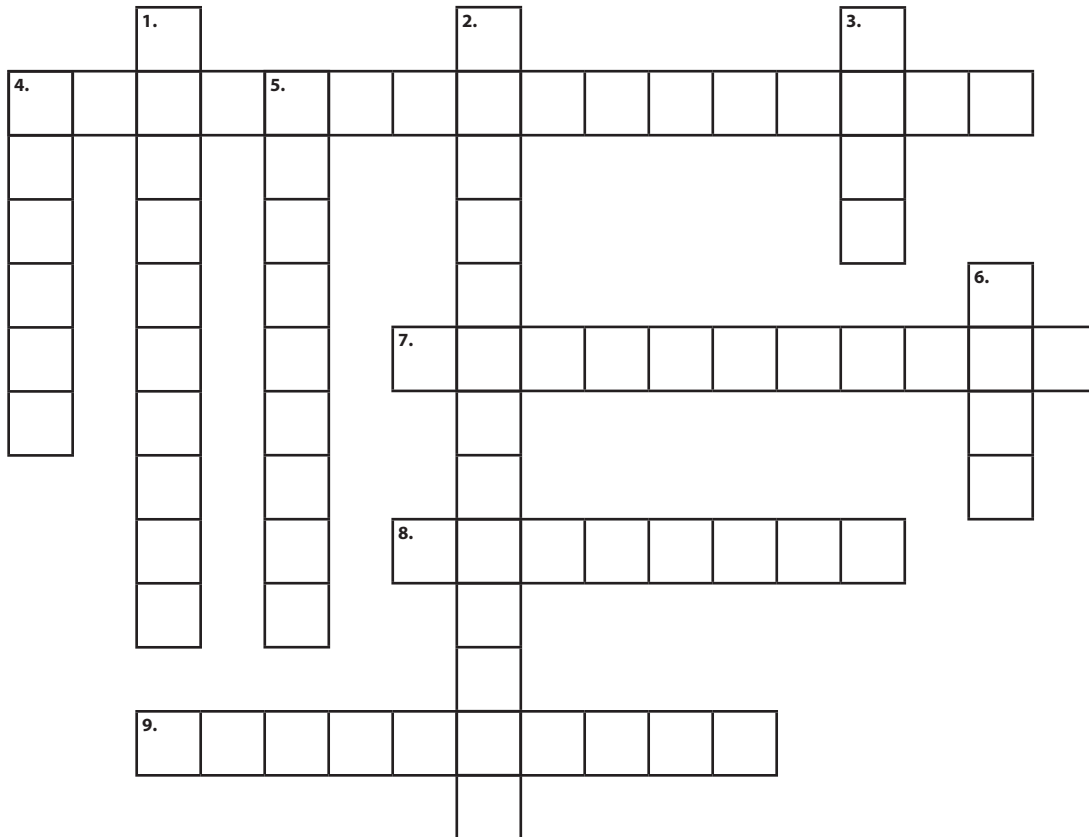
- A. government
- B. Committee of Public Safety
- C. National Convention
- D. international coalition



Execution of a King

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

4. A group of European countries got together to stop the _____.
7. Some leaders thought _____ went too far.
8. During the Reign of Terror, about 16,000 people were _____.
9. A/an _____ was used to kill Louis XVI.

DOWN

1. The French _____ started in 1792.
2. The _____ ended when a more moderate set of leaders took over.
3. People in some areas of France stayed loyal to the _____.
4. _____'s army was the largest in European history.
5. The _____ of Public Safety arrested anyone it thought might be against the revolution.
6. The Committee raised a/an _____ of over one million soldiers.



Execution of a King

Time Line – The French Revolution

Use the time line to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1789	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The French Revolution begins.• Delegates of the Estates-General take the Tennis Court Oath.• People storm the Bastille, a prison in Paris.
1792	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The National Convention establishes the French Republic.
1793	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• King Louis XVI is executed.• The Reign of Terror starts.
1794	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximilien Robespierre, the leader of the Committee of Public Safety, is arrested and executed.• The Reign of Terror ends.
1795	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new constitution sets up a five-man Directory and a two-house legislature in France.
1799	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Napoleon Bonaparte, a great military leader, overthrows the Directory and takes control of France. The Age of Napoleon begins.

1. List two things that happened in 1789.

2. What did the constitution of 1795 do?

3. In what year did Napoleon Bonaparte take control of France?



Quiz: Execution of a King

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- _____ 1. King Louis XVI was convicted of treason and was beheaded.
- _____ 2. The National Convention wanted France to be led by a king.
- _____ 3. France's army was the largest in European history.
- _____ 4. The Reign of Terror happened during the American Revolution.
- _____ 5. About 3,000 people were killed during the Reign of Terror.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. _____ was the leader of the Committee of Public Safety.

A. Maximilien Robespierre
B. Napoleon Bonaparte
C. King Louis XVI
D. Marie Antoinette

7. The _____'s job was to defend France from foreign threats and from threats at home.

A. National Convention
B. Legislative Assembly
C. Committee of Public Safety
D. Reign of Terror Committee

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What was the guillotine?
