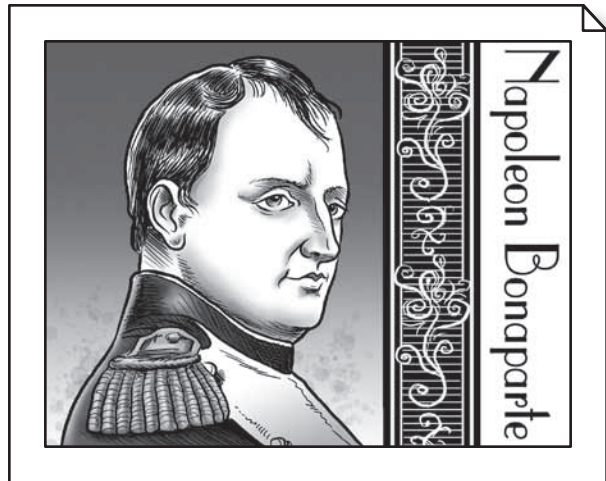# Napoleon

Near the end of the French Revolution, a group called the Directory ruled France. Not everybody liked the Directory, and it had enemies who plotted against it. Also, France was fighting wars with several European nations, including Russia, Great Britain, and Austria. For these reasons, the Directory depended on the military to help keep its power. This dependence would lead to the end of the Directory. In 1799, a military leader named Napoleon Bonaparte led a coup d'etat. A coup d'etat is a sudden overthrow of a government. Napoleon, a popular general, overthrew the Directory and took control of France.

The general had worked his way up the ranks in the French army. Napoleon won several victories as commander of the French armies and gained the support of his men. After the coup, Napoleon started a new government called the consulate. He said it was a republic, but by 1802, he had absolute power over the government. In 1804, Napoleon named himself emperor.

As France's leader, Napoleon did many things. He came up with the Napoleonic Code, a new set of laws. It included Enlightenment ideas like equality before the law and religious tolerance. Napoleon built a strong central government. He also made peace with the Catholic Church.

Napoleon was best known for his military leadership. In a series of battles, Napoleon's Grand Army defeated armies that stood up to him. These armies included the Austrian, Prussian, and Russian armies. Piece by piece, Napoleon took control of Europe. He planned to build a Grand Empire.

Soon, Napoleon's Grand Empire became a reality. Napoleon annexed some areas, or peacefully made them a part of France. His armies forced other countries to become French allies. The Grand Empire included France and parts of Italy, Spain, Holland, the Swiss Republic, Prussia, and Austria. One country France could not defeat was Great Britain.

European countries did not want to be part of Napoleon's Empire. Europe was in a state of continous warfare. It was hard for Napoleon's armies to control such a large area. France constantly had to fight to maintain power. On June 18, 1815, the French army met a combined British and Prussian army at Waterloo, Belgium. The French army was completely defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. After this loss, France's Parliament forced Napoleon to step down as leader of France. He was sent away to a small island in the South Atlantic where he died in 1821.

Napoleon

Multiple Choice

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

1. Napoleon overthrew the government of _____.
- **A.** France
- **B.** Great Britain
- **C.** the United States
- **D.** Canada

2. A coup d'etat is a _____.
- **A.** type of emperor
- **B.** sudden overthrow of a government
- **C.** special weapon developed by the French
- **D.** fighting technique

3. Napoleon was best known for his _____.
- **A.** set of laws
- **B.** peacemaking skills
- **C.** military leadership
- **D.** strong central government

4. Napoleon could not defeat _____.
- **A.** Italy
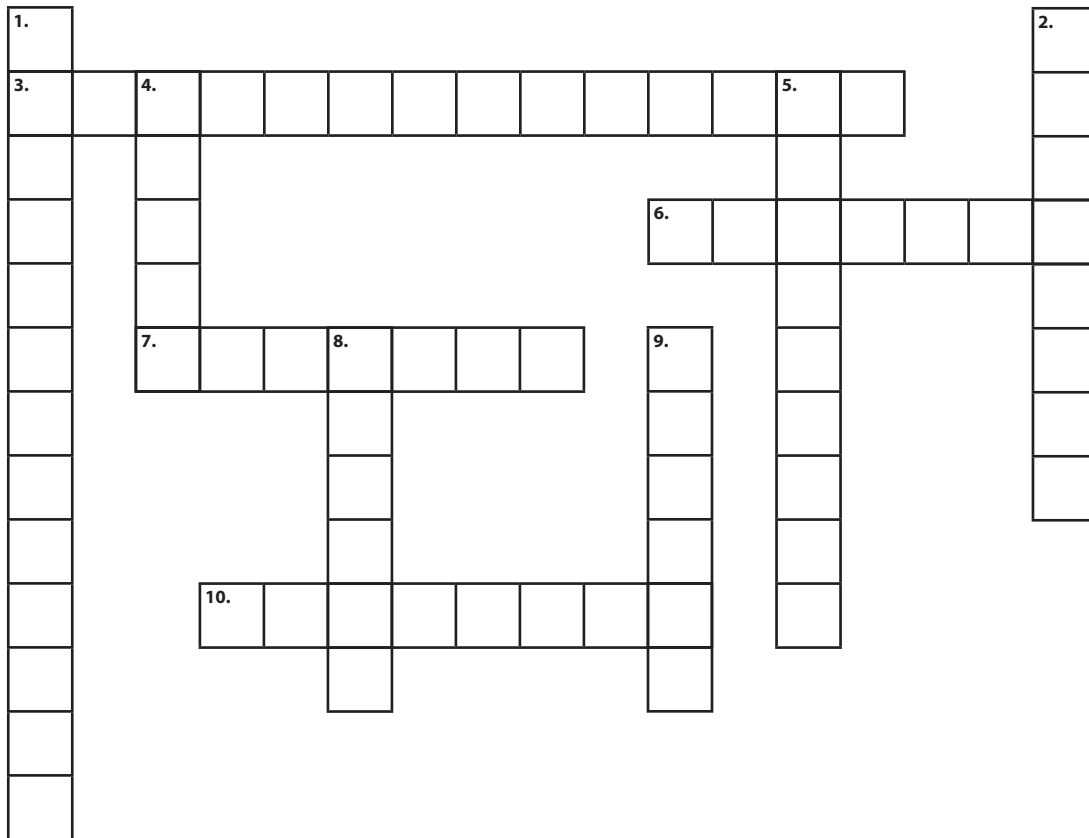- **B.** Russia
- **C.** Great Britain
- **D.** all of the above

5. The French army _____ the Battle of Waterloo.
- **A.** won
- **B.** lost
- **C.** tied
- **D.** refused to fight

Napoleon

Crossword Puzzle

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

ACROSS

3. Napoleon came up with a new set of laws called the _____ _____.

6. Europe was in a state of continous _____.

7. Napoleon named himself _____ of France.

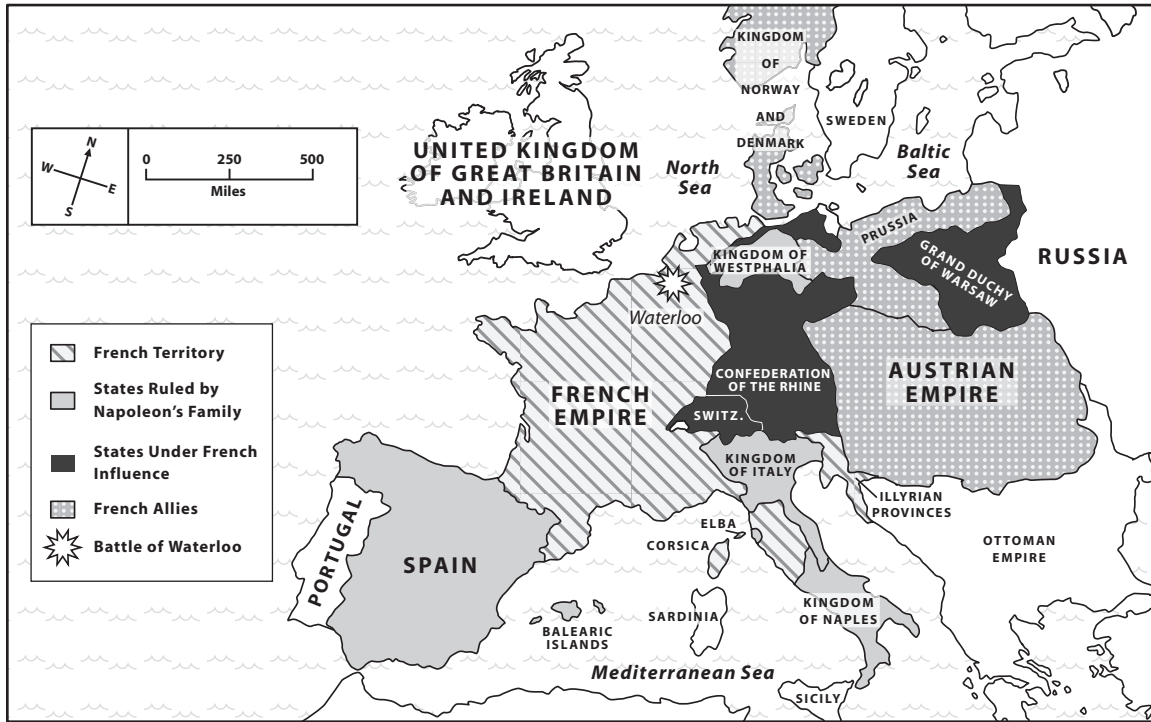**10.** _____ built a strong central government for France.

DOWN

1. The Napoleonic Code included _____ ideas.

2. After the Battle of _____, France's Parliament forced Napoleon to step down as leader of France.

4. Napoleon made _____ with the Catholic Church.

5. The _____ depended on the military to help keep its power.

8. Piece by piece, Napoleon took control of _____.

9. Napoleon was sent away to a small _____.

Napoleon

Map – Napoleon's Grand Empire, 1812

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

1. Name two countries that were not part of Napoleon's Grand Empire in 1812.

_____

_____

2. Name two countries that were ruled by Napoleon's family.

_____

_____

3. List two of France's allies.

_____

_____

Napoleon

Extension Activities

Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Out of 50 U.S. states, 49 have law systems based on British Common Law. One state's law system is based on the Napoleonic Code. Look on the Internet or at the library to find out which state has a law system based on the Napoleonic Code. Why do you think this state has a law system that is based on French law?

2. When people today talk about Waterloo, they use it as a symbol of complete defeat. Look in your textbook, on the Internet, or at the library to find out three facts about the Battle of Waterloo.

3. Napoleon had an interesting life. Look in your textbook, on the Internet, or at the library to find out three facts about Napoleon's life.

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Quiz: Napoleon

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

_____ **1.** Napoleon built a strong central government for France.

_____ **2.** After the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon became emperor of France.

_____ **3.** Napoleon fought a war against the Catholic Church.

_____ **4.** Great Britain was one of the first nations Napoleon conquered.

_____ **5.** Napoleon was best known for his military leadership.

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

6. A sudden overthrow of the government is called a _____.
  A. Napoleonic Code
  B. coup d'etat
  C. Waterloo
  D. Directory

7. _____ was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.
  A. Napoleon's army
  B. The British army
  C. The Prussian army
  D. All of the above

Short Answer
Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Name two things Napoleon did as ruler of France.

_____

_____