Name: _____ Date: _____

WHO BENEFITED DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

Read each of the following statements. Then write the name of the group or groups that benefited from changes made during the first stage of the French Revolution.

GROUPS

- Clergy (Priests, bishops, cardinals)
- Nobles (princes, dukes, earls)
- Bourgeoisie (wealthy middle class, bankers, merchants)
- Peasants (poor farmers, workers)

1. The National Assembly, led by the Third Estate, seized Church lands throughout France and sold them at low prices to those who had formerly worked on them.

Which group benefited the most? _____ Why? _____
_____
_____

Did the National Assembly do the "right thing?"
_____
_____

2. The National Assembly adopted the **Declaration of the Rights of Man**. This document declared, "men are born free and remain free and equal in rights". Some of those rights included the right to liberty, property, and justice.

Which group benefited the most? _____ Why?
_____
_____

How is the Declaration of the Rights of Man similar to our Bill of Rights? _____
_____
_____

3. Peasants attacked the estates of many nobles and destroyed all the records of the money that peasants owed their landlords/nobles. Often the nobles were forced to abandon their homes, which angry peasants then destroyed. Some nobles were caught fleeing and were killed by angry peasants.

Which group benefited the most? _____ _Why? _____
_____
_____

Were the peasants morally justified in their violent actions? _____
_____
_____

4. The new French Constitution created a limited monarchy with most of the political power being held by the National Assembly. The king had very limited powers in the governing of France.

Which group benefited the most? _____ Why? _____
_____
_____

Why was it important to limit the authority of any future French King? _____
_____
_____
_____

Directions: You must complete all of these questions on a separate piece of paper. Write the questions as well as your responses.

REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE 1789-1800

Vocabulary: republic, reign, terror, executed, national

When the Bastille fell on July 14, 1789, the Old Regime (the old way of life) in France fell also. The Third Estate took power. They made many changes in France. Some of the changes are listed below.

ECONOMIC CHANGES:

* Everybody in the country had to pay taxes.
* Land was taken from the Catholic Church and sold to farmers.

POLITICAL CHANGES:

* France ended the monarchy and it became a **REPUBLIC.**
* All men were treated equally. The estate system ended.
* **A REIGN OF TERROR** started. In the Reign of Terror thousands of people were arrested because the government thought they might be against the revolution. Many were **EXECUTED.** The most famous executions were of Louis XVI and his wife, Marie Antoinette.



Louis XVI head is held so the crowd of people could see it.

SOCIAL CHANGES:

* The new government stopped putting people into prison because they owed money.
* Public schools were started for all children.
* African slavery in the French colonies ended.

RELIGIOUS CHANGES:

* The Catholic Church in France became the NATIONAL Church. This means that the French government controlled the Church.
* All people were given freedom of religion.
* French people no longer had to pay taxes to -the Catholic Church.
* The Pope lost all his power in the French Catholic Church.

QUESTIONS:

1. Listed below are five groups of people that lived at the time of the French Revolution. For each group explain how they felt about the French Revolution.

A. Middle Class. B. Bishops in the Catholic Church

C. Nobles. D. Poor people E. Kings in other countries

2. What was the Reign of Terror?

3. Should Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette have been executed? Explain your answer.