Revolution's Ripples

Trace causes, competing goals, and lasting effects in Europe.

SS24.WH.2 "Assess the causes and consequences of the French Revolution. 2a Explain how the American Revolution influenced the French Revolution. 2b Identify the objectives of different factions in the French Revolution..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the French Revolution, circle two faction goals, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three effects of revolution or war.

From France to Europe

1. When French officers returned from the American Revolution, they brought stories of colonists challenging a king's authority and claiming rights. France had also borrowed heavily to help the Americans win, adding to a financial crisis. At home, many ordinary people faced high bread prices while nobles and clergy enjoyed tax privileges. In 1789, Louis XVI called the Estates-General to address the debt. Delegates from the Third Estate, representing most French people, demanded a greater voice in government.

2. As revolution spread, factions disagreed about its direction. Constitutional monarchists wanted a king limited by a constitution. The Girondins favored a republic but resisted the Jacobins' more radical measures. Jacobins demanded stronger action against enemies of the republic. In 1793, war and fears of plots helped the Jacobin-led government begin the Reign of Terror. Under Maximilien Robespierre, revolutionary courts sent thousands of suspected opponents to execution, often by guillotine. Fear silenced criticism and deepened divisions. Robespierre himself was executed in 1794.

3. After years of upheaval, Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in 1799 and later crowned himself emperor. His Napoleonic Code spread legal equality for men but restricted women's rights. His armies redrew borders across Europe and ended feudal privileges in some places. Yet the Napoleonic Wars killed vast numbers and stirred resistance to French rule. After Napoleon's defeat, the Congress of Vienna restored several monarchies and reshaped borders to contain France. Its leaders sought a balance of power, but demands for national independence and political rights survived.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the American Revolution influence events in France in two different ways?

2. How did the goals of constitutional monarchists and Jacobins differ?

3. How did Robespierre's government use the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, and what was one effect?

4. How did Napoleon's rule change Europe, and what did the Congress of Vienna do after his defeat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise the Congress of Vienna after Napoleon's defeat. Write a short recommendation for Europe. Use two specific effects of the Revolution or Napoleon's rule from the passage, and explain how your plan would address them.

ANSWER KEY

Revolution's Ripples

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the French Revolution, circle two faction goals, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three effects of revolution or war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the American Revolution influence events in France in two different ways?	**It spread ideas about challenging a king and claiming rights. French borrowing to support the Americans also added to France's financial crisis.**
2	How did the goals of constitutional monarchists and Jacobins differ?	**Constitutional monarchists wanted a king limited by a constitution, while Jacobins wanted stronger action against enemies of the republic.**
3	How did Robespierre's government use the guillotine during the Reign of Terror, and what was one effect?	**Revolutionary courts sent thousands of suspected opponents to execution, often by guillotine. Fear silenced criticism or deepened divisions.**
4	How did Napoleon's rule change Europe, and what did the Congress of Vienna do after his defeat?	**Napoleon's armies redrew borders, and his code spread legal equality for men. The Congress restored several monarchies and reshaped borders to contain France.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would keep legal equality for men because Napoleon's code gave them that protection. I would also protect people's right to criticize the government, since fear during the Terror silenced criticism. To reduce resistance to outside rule, I would ask local people what government they wanted before changing their borders.

Accept historically supported recommendations that address two distinct effects named in the passage. Students need not propose the choices the Congress actually made.