Revolutionary Goals

Compare what French revolutionary groups wanted

SS24.WH.2b "Identify the objectives of different factions in the French Revolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each faction's name, then circle the words that describe what it wanted so you can compare its objectives with the others.

Who Should Shape France?

1 In 1791, a Paris printer might hear people shout "Liberty!" while arguing about who should govern France. The Revolution had weakened the monarchy, but its supporters did not all want the same outcome. Royalists wanted to preserve or restore the king's strong authority; many also defended the older social order. The Feuillants, a group in the legislature, wanted a constitutional monarchy instead. Under that plan, a written constitution would limit the king's powers while leaving him on the throne. For a royalist who wanted broad royal authority, the Feuillants' limits went too far.

2 By 1792, war with Austria and Prussia sharpened divisions among revolutionaries. The Girondins, a group of elected deputies, supported war, hoping it would defend the Revolution and spread its ideas beyond France. After the monarchy fell, they favored a republic, but many opposed executing the former king, Louis XVI. The Montagnards, another group of deputies closely linked to the Jacobin Club, also supported a republic. They saw the former king as a danger to it and pushed for his execution. In January 1793, the king was executed. Both groups rejected royal rule, but they disagreed over how to handle the king.

3 Outside the assembly, working people in Paris called sans-culottes made demands of their own. Bread prices mattered urgently to families who could not afford a loaf. Many sans-culottes wanted the government to set maximum prices for basic goods and act firmly against people they saw as enemies of the Revolution. The Montagnards increasingly worked with them and supported price controls in 1793. Many Girondins resisted giving the central government such power over trade. These groups sometimes shared a wish to protect the republic, yet they disagreed about whether limits on prices would help. Their objectives changed as war and hunger increased pressure.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Feuillants' goal for the king's power differ from the royalists' goal?

2. What goal did the Girondins and Montagnards share, and how did their objectives for Louis XVI differ?

3. Which economic goal brought the Montagnards and many sans-culottes together?

4. How did the Girondins' goal in supporting war differ from the sans-culottes' goal in demanding price limits?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 95 word editorial from Paris in 1793 recommending a response to high bread prices. Compare the goals of the Girondins, Montagnards, and sans-culottes, naming one shared goal and one disagreement to support your recommendation.

Revolutionary Goals

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each faction's name, then circle the words that describe what it wanted so you can compare its objectives with the others. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Feuillants' goal for the king's power differ from the royalists' goal?	**The Feuillants wanted a constitution to limit the king's powers while keeping him on the throne. Royalists wanted to preserve or restore his strong authority.**
2	What goal did the Girondins and Montagnards share, and how did their objectives for Louis XVI differ?	**Both favored a republic. The Montagnards pushed for Louis XVI's execution, while many Girondins opposed it.**
3	Which economic goal brought the Montagnards and many sans-culottes together?	**Both supported government limits on prices for basic goods.**
4	How did the Girondins' goal in supporting war differ from the sans-culottes' goal in demanding price limits?	**The Girondins hoped war would defend the Revolution and spread its ideas. The sans-culottes wanted price limits to make basic goods affordable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Paris families need affordable bread, so I support limits on prices for basic goods. Sans-culottes demand these limits because hunger threatens working households. Montagnards have worked with them and backed price controls, so their goals overlap on this issue. Many Girondins resist giving the central government that much power over trade, even though they, too, want to protect the republic. A republic cannot expect hungry people to defend it. Our city should press the government to keep bread within reach while the war continues.

Accept a recommendation for or against price controls if the editorial accurately compares all three groups, identifies a shared goal and a disagreement, and supports its position with passage evidence.