

# Girls' High School & College, Prayagraj.

Worksheet no. - 2

Session--2020-2021

Class-8 (A, B, C, D, E )

Subject-History& Civics

## Chapter: The Age of Revolutions (History)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Parents please ensure that the student reads the content of the passage carefully to answer the questions below. They can also refer to a History & Civics book (CI-8) for a detailed study of the chapter or they can refer to internet using the following links

<http://youtu.be/D1-vAI0zPYc> : American War of Independence

<https://youtu.be/vf7gljHfOAE> : French Revolution

**THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE:** The discovery of America led England France, Spain, and Holland to establish their colonies in America. There were thirteen British colonies along the east coast of North America. They originally came from England for a better life. These Colonies were under the control of the British government. Each colony was governed by a Governor and a Local Council. The Council passed Laws and levied taxes. The colonies enjoyed all Independence but had certain restrictions. The colonies could only import goods from England, which were taxed heavily. The government's constant demand for money to fund its wars in Europe and elsewhere, made the colonies criticize the British government as new taxes were imposed on the colonies.

In 1765 the British Parliament passed the **Stamp Act** which made the affixation of stamp on documents compulsory. The colonies refused to pay taxes because the British Parliament had no representative from the colonies. They adopted a slogan – "**No Taxation without Representation**". The government imposed a tax on tea. Several colonies refused to unload the tea from ships that came from England. Some people in disguise as Native Indians raided the British ships and dumped the crates into the sea. This incident is known as the '**Boston Tea Party**'. This hastened the American War of Independence. The writings of many philosophers like John Locke, John Harrington, John Milton, and Thomas Paine gave immense strength to the colonists. On 4th July 1776, the representatives of all the colonies met in Philadelphia and adopted the '**Declaration of Independence**'. This Declaration asserted that the colonies had every right to end the British rule and form their own government. **George Washington** led the colonies and many battles were fought. The war ended in 1781, with the victory of the colonies.

**Birth of the United States of America:-** Both, the British government and the colonies signed the **Treaty of Paris** and all the colonies came together to form the United States of America. A constitution was drafted in which the Bill of Rights was an important part of it. It guarantees American citizens the Right to Freedom of Speech, Religion, and Justice.



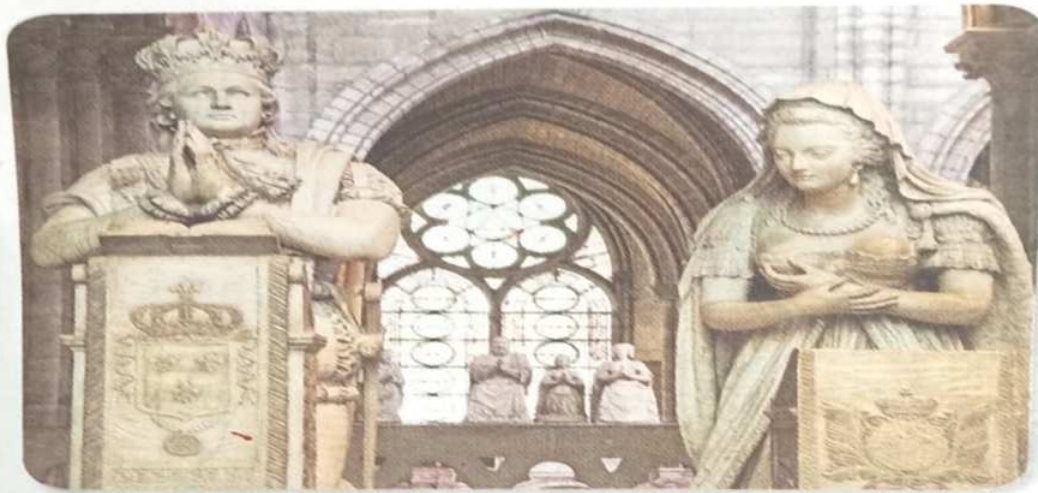
### **THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:-**

**Political cause-** France was ruled by Louis XVI and his wife, Marie Antoinette. They ignored the sufferings of the people. The nobles and officials under Louis XVI were extremely corrupt and tortured people for taxes. Those who were arrested were sent to the state prison at Bastille.

**Social cause** - The French society was feudal in nature and was divided into three Estates. The First Estate consisted of the church officials, the Second Estate consisted of the nobilities and the Third Estate which consisted of peasants, traders, doctors, teachers, lawyers, and so on. The first two estates enjoyed all Political and Social Rights but the third estate was deprived of all rights and privileges.

**Economic cause** - The frequent wars in which France got involved emptied the state treasury. The taxation burden fell on the third estate. Philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Diderot inspired people to rise against all forms of inequality. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate formed the National Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1789. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 1789, members of the National Assembly met in a tennis court and vowed to stay united in their struggle. This event is known as the '**Tennis**

**Court Oath'**. Due to acute economic crises, Louis XVI summoned all the estates. Seeing the situation, the third estate put forward their demands but it was turned down. Louis resorted to terror tactics. This infuriated the people and fighting broke out in Paris and other parts of France. The National Assembly ended the monarchy and established a republican government. Louis and his wife were executed. The ideals of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity became the guiding principle of the Republic of France.



Sculptures of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette in Basilica of Saint Denis, France

### **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE -**

From 1792 to 1815 France was involved in a series of wars with England, Holland, Spain, Prussia, and other European countries. This put a strain on the financial condition of France. It was against this background that Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power. The most powerful man in France at this time was Napoleon. He became a General in the French Army. He was the first Consul, and then became the emperor of France (1804-1814/15). Napoleon was a very ambitious man and desired to control the whole of Europe. Soon after crowning himself the emperor, he declared war on Austria and defeated the Austrian forces in 1805. He also defeated the combined armies of Austria and Russia in the Battle of Austerlitz in the same year. Later in 1813 the major European powers such as Sweden, Austria, Prussia, and Russia formed an alliance and defeated France in the **Battle of Leipzig**. The allied forces occupied Paris in 1814, and Napoleon was forced to abdicate. He was exiled to the island of Elba. Napoleon did not accept his defeat and gathered a small army with which he marched to Belgium. He was once again defeated in the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815. This Battle shattered Napoleon's dream of returning to power. The British exiled Napoleon to the island of Saint Helena where he died in 1821.



The Lion's Mound commemorates the Battle of Waterloo where Napoleon was defeated.

**Q1. Fill in the Blanks:-**

- Napoleon was a very \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- The combined armies of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were defeated in the battle of Austerlitz.
- The major European powers defeated France in the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Gathering a small army, Napoleon marched to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ exiled Napoleon to the island of Saint Helena.

**Q2. One word answer questions:-**

- On whom did the taxation burden fall in the French Society?
- Where did the members of the National Assembly meet?
- Which Act did the British Parliament pass in 1765?
- Where had the British colonies originally come from?
- Who led the colonies in the American War of Independence?

**Q3. Answer the questions in Short:-**

- Name the countries that established their colonies in America.
- Who signed the Treaty of Paris?
- What rights does the 'Bill of Rights' guarantee the American citizens?
- What slogan was adopted by the colonies?
- Name the philosophers whose writings inspired the colonists.

**Answer the questions in detail:-**

- Q4. What is known as the 'Boston Tea Party'?
- Q5. What did the 'Declaration of Independence' assert?
- Q6. Discuss the social structure of French society.
- Q7. Which event is known as the 'Tennis Court Oath'?
- Q8. How did Napoleon rise to power?
- Q9. With reference to Napoleon Bonaparte, discuss the following:-
- The first defeat of Napoleon.
  - Napoleon's Decline.

\*\*\*\*\*END\*\*\*\*\*