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Tender Heart High School, 22/4/24
Sector 33B, Chandigarh

Class VIII

Subject:- History and Civics

Teacher:- Mili Bhatnagar

Chapter 3 The French Revolution

Good Morning Students!

In this chapter we will study about the causes and the events leading up to the French Revolution. France was ruled by Louis XVI who was an autocratic ruler leading a luxurious life and spending money on wars. The administrative system was corrupt where a certain group of people enjoyed unlimited powers. There was no proper law and common people power were curtailed. The society in France was divided into three classes:-

First Estate - clergy

Second Estate - Nobility

Third Estate - Common people.

Only the first two estates enjoyed privileges and were exempt from paying taxes. The people of the third class had no social standing and were overburdened with taxes. The intellectuals of the period inspired people to raise their voice against injustice and to fight for their rights. The American War of Independence also inspired the people of France.

The year 1789 was important in French history as King Louis XVI called the meeting of Estate general - a body having

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representatives from all the three estates. The main motive was to increase the taxes. The system was such that when a decision had to be taken it was one vote per estate and not one man one vote. So the Third Estate demanded it. As the demand was rejected by the King, the Third Estate formed a National Council. Its members met at Tennis Court and took an oath to stay united till a new Constitution was drafted.

Louis XVI took steps to control the National Council. But the common people attacked Bastille (where prisoners were kept) and broke open its gates. The prisoners were set free. As a result of which a new municipal government called 'Paris Commune' was formed. The ruler was forced to accept people's demand. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen was issued which provided rights to people. Thus the powers of the king were reduced.

MCQ

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. Louis XVI | 5. All of these |
| 2. Louis XIV | 6. 14th July. |
| 3. Louis XVI | 7. Both (a) and (b) |
| 4. Prisoners | 8. Paul Marat |

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State True or False

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. True

Fill in the blanks

1. Marie Antoinette
2. England, America
3. Third
4. red, white, blue
5. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the citizen