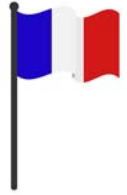


Name _____



The French Revolution

The French Revolution was a period in French history when the people of France rose up against the king and replaced the monarchy with a democracy. To the common people in France, the Bastille, a 14th century fortress in Paris being used as a prison, represented the monarchy and everything they thought was wrong with it. On July 14th, 1789, a group of about 1,000 people from France's Third Estate, the social class composed of everyone who was not royalty or nobility, stormed the Bastille. They were upset because they had asked for more voice in their government and the king had not responded to them. They also thought that there were revolutionaries being held prisoner there. There was gunpowder stored in the Bastille, and the people who acted on that day wanted to seize it to arm themselves for their defense because they believed the king was preparing to use military force against them. The storming of the Bastille was the event that started the French Revolution.

Explain the connection between the Bastille and the French Revolution.
