**French Revolution - skits**

* Meeting of Estates General
  + Legislative body consisting of representatives of the three estates – 1st and 2nd estate call this meeting due to the proposal of them getting taxed because of the country’s debt
  + Nobles hoped to talk with the King to guarantee their privilege of not paying taxes and being higher up in society.
  + Louis called the meeting and asked that the estates list their grievances
  + Each estate had one vote – typically unfair because it would be 1st/2nd vs 3rd estate in the votes
* Tennis Court Oath
  + Estate representatives met for the Estates general, the third estate suggested having more votes than just the single representative and have it done by heads (per person) – stalemate because the 1st and 2nd didn’t want it to happen
  + 3rd estate declares themselves as the people of France and call themselves the National Assembly
  + The National Assembly tried to meet up but the door was locked – the people decided to move to a nearby indoor tennis court instead
  + The National Assembly swore “never to separate and to meet wherever the circumstances might require until we have established a sound and just constitution.”
  + Some 1st and 2nd estate joined the Assembly
* Storming Bastille
  + Royal troops go to Parris to occupy the Bastille (a fortress prison for political and other prisoners)
  + Hundreds of Parisians demanded gunpowder and weapons that they believed were stored there
  + Bastille commander refused to let them in and open fired outside the Bastille
  + Mob broke into the Bastille, killed the commander, let out prisoners, and found no weapons
  + Bastille represented years of monarchy abuse
  + Posed a challenge to power (enlightenment/protestant reformation impact)
* Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen
  + Written by the Assembly (majority 3rd Estate)
  + Modeled after the American Declaration of Independence
  + All men were “born and remain free and equal in rights.”
  + “Liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression” – Natural rights (John Locke)
  + All male citizens are equal before the law
  + Freedom of religion
  + Taxes paid by everyone – depending on their ability
  + “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”
  + Women were sad – they did not gain any new rights
  + King Louis didn’t accept this and continued on with his lavish life
* Louis tried to escape
  + Marie Antoinette and others urged the king to escape the humiliating situation of losing power
  + King Louis was disguised as a servant as he headed north to the border along with Marie and children
  + FAIL
  + Someone recognized him because his face was on the currency
  + Many yelled at him as he went back to the Versailles
  + King was viewed as a traitor and against the revolution (obviously)
* Declaration of War
  + King of Prussia and emperor of Austria are willing to fight to protect the Monarchy and his position – revolutionaries were concerned and prepared for war!
  + French revolutionaries vs European monarchs – monarchs don’t want the idea of revolution to spread throughout Europe so they can continue with their hold of power
* Royal executions
  + Tensions lead to violence – Radical phase of the revolution
  + Ordinary citizens were even involved in the violence
  + Radicals take control of the Assembly (original group of revolutionaries)
  + Suffrage granted to all men
  + Louis XVI on trial as a traitor of France
  + January 1793 King Louis XVI was beheaded
  + October 1793 Marie Antoinette was beheaded