

The Period of Enlightenment	
	Taxes were not collected effectively. Private companies collected tax and some never got to the King. The King and the government did not spend money wisely.
The French Queen, Marie Antoinette becomes the subject of hatred in France.	
	Silk harvest failed. This put many textile workers out of work. The food harvests were not good which meant there were food shortages. Many people were starving
1788 The Estates General is called to meet for the first time since 1614	
	Due to a rainy spring and a freak hailstorm in July the harvests were even worse than 1787. Famine hit the country
1789 Third Estate forms the National Assembly and issues the tennis Court oath.	
	Bread was in such short supply that the poor rioted in Paris demanding to be fed. They felt the King had taken many taxes from them and he should provide for them in return.
July 14th: Storming of the Bastille	
	This document set out the freedoms that the French people said they were entitled to. The first right was: 1. Men are born and remain free and <u>equal</u> in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good. The King is forced to agree to this although he has no intention of supporting it.
1790 June: Nobility abolished by the National Assembly	

	New ideas including those of science had spread across Europe and people were no longer happy to accept that the old ways were right. People of all classes began to be less happy with their social positions and began to question the older ways.
1786 King Louis XVI and France face bankruptcy.	
.	Many people blamed the Queen for spending too much money on things like diamond necklaces, she was also rumoured to have many lovers and to interfere in the running of the country
1787 Harsh Winter. France suffers famine	
	This was a meeting of people representing the three estates The <b>King</b> hoped he would get new taxes. The <b>nobles</b> thought they would get control of the government. The <b>people</b> thought they would have their problems solved.
Famine	
	Many people representing the third estate were locked out of their meeting hall so they met in an indoor tennis court. They all swore an oath not to disband until the King had achieved their aims. The King was forced to agree but secretly was raising an army.
Bread Riots in Paris	
	A huge crowd in Paris break into and destroy the hated 'Bastille' prison to get arms to defend themselves from the Kings troops who are rumoured to be surrounding the city.
4th August: Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen by the National Assembly	
	All feudalism was abolished. There were now no longer three estates but just one mass of people with equal rights. There were no lords, Earls Kings or Queens anymore.