

French Society

Grade Nine - French Revolution

- French Society and the making of a Revolution

Materials

- Crossroads: A Meeting of Nations
- City building materials split into three bags with extras out on the table.

Lesson

1. (10 mins) Hook: Crash Course - French Revolution - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITTVKwCylFY>

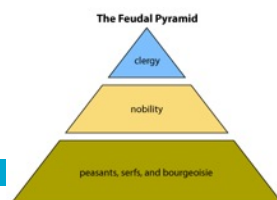


2. (20 mins) Photo Study: Trois Ordres - Pre-Revolution - 1776ish

- Identify all three men. (Clergy, Aristocrat, Peasant)
- Describe how the people are dressed in this drawing.
- What's happening in this cartoon? (Clergy, Aristocrat riding on the back of the Peasants)
- What message is this cartoon trying to convey?
- What could you deduct about the economic situation of France at this time?
- Imagine your the man carrying the other two men, what might you be thinking and feeling?

1. (15 mins) Lecture on French Society...

- Feudal System - the economic and social system of medieval Europe. Lords received land from the ruler and serfs worked the land for the lord.



- 1st Estate - Clergy
 - Small group of people
 - All privileges and Money
 - Paid no taxes
 - Collecting tithe from peasants
- 2nd Estate - Nobility
 - Small group of people - 2% OF THE POPULATION
 - Privileges
 - Wealthy
 - Paid no taxes
- 3rd Estate - Commoners
 - LARGEST GROUP!
 - 1) Peasants and the poor make up the LARGEST GROUP of the 3rd Estate - Farmer's and Country Folk - grow food for merchants to sell, any money paid would go to taxes, tariffs, and rent.
 - Peasants paid a tithe - which is 10% of all money made - add to the that a tax on every person in your house - on top of salt tax - on top of fees that need to be paid in order to use the communal mill, wine press and bakery. In order to make your food and drinks, you need to pay a fee.
 - Can't read or write
 - Dying of epidemics and famine
 - No access of education
 - IN PARIS 2) City workers, servants, clerks, apprentices and day laborers, anyone with a job - They are also poor - spending 50% of their income on food!
 - Inflation - a situation in which the price of goods rises quickly - in this era the price of flour rose very quickly, bread is a main staple - Later lead Marie Antoinette to say "Let Them Eat Cake" - Which was actually probably never said and if it was, it was probably "Let Them Eat Bread"
 - Rise of Bourgeoisie
 - Where is the middle class?
 - Jobs? Merchants, Lawyers, Doctors, Manufacturers, Shopkeepers and Artisans - Investing in new business ventures.
 - Laws and Regulations make it impossible for the bourgeoisie to make any profits
 - Some people held monopolies (the exclusive right to sell a product to a group of people) on production of certain goods.

- France was divided into many different districts - each with its own taxes and tariffs which means it costs money to move products around the country.

3rd ESTATE CARRIES THE BURDEN OF PAY MOST OF THE TAXES.

4. (25 mins) Activity:

- Students will be split into 3 groups.
- Each group will be given the same bag of “tools” which includes:
 - Straws
 - Scissors
 - Clear Tape
- Each group must make a hospital, school, fire/police station and a corporate building.
- Without the students knowing each of their groups will represent classes in society, upper class, middle class, and lower class.
- There will be other supplies available to the groups but they must ask for they want. Other supplies include: paper, popsicle sticks, felt, masking tape, hot glue and other decorative items.
- When the upper class group asks for supplies the answer is always yes. When the middle class asks for supplies the answer is no most of the time with the occasional yes. When the lower class asks the answers is always no.
- Through out the activity it will become clear who is in which class.
- At the end of the activity the groups will present their cities and also show what supplies they had left over.

Closure

- Presentation and discussion of the cities and the activity as a whole.
 - What did you notice about your group in relation to the other groups?
 - Did you notice there was a difference in the distribution of supplies?
 - How did you feel when you didn't get what you requested? Did you group become frustrated?
 - How did you feel when you received more than you asked for?
 - What challenges did you have?
 - How does this relate to pre-Revolution France?