

## Why was there a revolution in France? Long term causes card sort

<p><b>A:</b> Louis XIV built the Palace of Versailles in 1682 to house the nobles. They were easy to control whilst living at Court.</p>	<p><b>F:</b> From 1685 Huguenots were persecuted. This angered the Parlement de Paris.</p>	<p><b>K:</b> Between the years 1661-1715 Louis XIV was part of four major wars. This cost France a lot of money. The Third Estate were taxed in order to pay for these wars.</p>
<p><b>B:</b> When Louis XIV died in 1715, a regent, Orleans, took over and ruled on behalf of Louis XV until he was old enough. He had to give up some of his power to make the Parlements support him.</p>	<p><b>G:</b> In order to fix the financial crisis, Orleans asked John Law to implement a plan to fix it in 1716. This was not a success and the nobles blocked future financial reforms in the future.</p>	<p><b>L:</b> Louis XV lived a very lavish lifestyle between the years 1723-1774. This made people question the morality of the monarchy and royal power.</p>
<p><b>C:</b> As France became a more industrialised nation during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a newer class, the bourgeois, threatened the old social order. This caused tension between the Third Estate and the Second Estate.</p>	<p><b>H:</b> During the 18<sup>th</sup> century new ideas were spread about equality that put the authority of the monarchy into doubt.</p>	<p><b>M:</b> In the tea and coffee salons in Paris, pamphlets containing new ideas and criticising Louis XV were discussed. This gossip spread down into the Third Estate which fuelled their anger further.</p>
<p><b>D:</b> Soldiers who had helped the Americans in their War of Independence (1775-1783) against the British returned to France inspired by ideas of freedom, liberty and equality.</p>	<p><b>I:</b> Involvement in the American War of Independence cost the French government 1.3 billion livres by 1783.</p>	<p><b>N:</b> By 1789 the price of bread was 18 sous. This meant that the peasants could not afford to eat. This increased social tensions further as the nobles continued to live in luxury at Versailles.</p>
<p><b>E:</b> Louis XVI was seen as a weak monarch. He was also married to Marie Antoinette who was very unpopular with the people especially after the Diamond Necklace Affair in 1781. His ability to maintain absolutism was put into question.</p>	<p><b>J:</b> Louis XVI had a lot of different finance ministers. Perhaps the most famous was Necker who tried to reform the financial system in 1789 in order to free France of debt. These reforms were blocked by the nobles who wanted to protect their position of privilege.</p>	<p><b>O:</b> Louis XVI called the Estates General on 5 May 1789. This had not happened since 1614 and signalled his inability to maintain absolute rule in France.</p>

**Tasks:**

1. Cut out the cards. Sort them into chronological order and answer the following questions:
  - a. For how long had there been problems in France?
  - b. Which monarchs ruled France before 1789?
  
2. Read through the cards again. Sort them into categories the following categories:
  - Social Problems
  - Political Problems
  - Economic Problems
  - New Ideas

**Now complete the tasks below:**

---

- a. Write a sentence to summarise each of the problems in France.
- b. Answer the enquiry question 'Why was there a revolution in France?' in no more than 60 words. You could use some of the words in the box below to help you.

monarchs	weakness	enlightenment	finance	Estates system	war	debt	Absolutism	Third Estate
----------	----------	---------------	---------	----------------	-----	------	------------	--------------

## Teaching notes

### Differentiation Ideas:

---

**Support:** This activity would also work as a colour coding activity with sentence starters to help support the completion of the consolidation tasks.

**Stretch and Challenge:** Students could be asked to stick the cards down on an A3 sheet in their categories and then asked to provide links between the factors. They could then be asked to make a judgement about the most important reason.