Study Guide

Unit 4: Revolutions

# Theme

What is revolutionary?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enlightenment |  |
| The French-Indian War  (The Seven Years War) |  |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stamp Act |  |
| Boston Tea Party |  |
| Sons of Liberty |  |
| *Common Sense* |  |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Revolution |  |
| Declaration of Independence |  |
| Constitution |  |
| Treaty of Paris |  |
| French Revolution |  |
| Tennis Court Oath |  |
| Storming of the Bastille |  |
| Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen |  |
| Reign of Terror |  |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Thomas Jefferson |  |
| George Washington |  |
| King Louis XVI |  |
| Estates General |  |
| Maximilian Robespierre |  |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Napoleon |  |
| Nationalism |  |
| Haitian Revolution |  |
| Latin American Revolutions |  |

# Analysis

## Setting

1. How did the Seven Years War lead to the conflicts in the American colonies and France?

## Conflict

1. Were the American colonists justified in their revolution against King George III?

## Plot

1. Compare and contrast the French and American Revolutions?

## Characters

1. How did Maximilian Robespierre change the direction of the French Revolution?

## Resolution

1. What was the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte?

## Theme

1. Which revolution do you think was most successful? Why?

Study Guide

Unit 4: Revolutions

# Theme

What is revolutionary?

# Vocabulary

## Context

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enlightenment | The philosophical movement primarily concerned with applying reason to society. |
| The French-Indian War  (The Seven Years War) | War between France and England for territory in North America, which England won. Both countries had huge war debts that required greater taxation. |

## Conflict

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stamp Act | A tax passed by the British Parliament on paper products in the American colonies to pay for the French-Indian War, which angered the colonists. |
| Sons of Liberty | A secret society to protect the colonists’ rights and fight taxation. |
| Boston Tea Party | A protest on against the Tea Act, where the Sons of Liberty dumped British tea overboard in the Boston harbor. |
| *Common Sense* | A popular pamphlet written by Thomas Paine making a case for independence |

## Plot

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| American Revolution | A colonial revolt for independence against Great Britain. |
| Declaration of Independence | The statement adopted by the 13 colonies announcing their independence from Great Britain. |
| Constitution | The supreme law of the United States, outlining the form of government as a republic. |
| Treaty of Paris | The formal recognition of the United States as a separate state from Great Britain. |
| French Revolution | The social and political upheaval in France against the privileges of the old order. |
| Tennis Court Oath | The vow made by the Third Estate declaring themselves the National Assembly, after locked out from the Estates General, to form a constitution. |
| Storming of the Bastille | The Paris uprising that destroyed the Bastille in support of the National Assembly |
| Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen | The core statement of the National Assembly stating the natural rights of men. |
| Reign of Terror | The period of mass executions under the Jacobin party that ended with the fall of Robespierre. |

## Characters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Thomas Jefferson | Writer of the Declaration of Independence. |
| George Washington | General of the Continental Army against the British in the American Revolution. |
| King Louis XVI | The King at the time of the French Revolution who was beheaded. |
| Estates General | The assembly of representatives of the three French estates—the clergy (first), nobility (second) and commoner (third). |
| Maximilian Robespierre | Leader of the Jacobin party pushing for a republic and responsible for the reign of Terror |

## Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Napoleon | Military leader in the French Revolutionary wars who rose to become leader of France. |
| Nationalism | A support for the interests of one’s group through self-governance |
| Haitian Revolution | The independence of San Domingue from French rule through a successful slave rebellion. |
| Latin American Revolutions | The independence of Spanish colonies from Spain. |

# Analysis

## Setting

1. How did the Seven Years War lead to the conflicts in the American colonies and France?

The Seven Years War between France and England left both countries deep in debt. Gunpowder armies were a powerful force for building empires, but were also extremely costly. Both countries struggled to pay their war debts and their kings hoped to raise taxes in order to solve the problem. Taxation sparked movements in each country for greater participation in government. In America, the failure to get representatives in the British Parliament led to an independence movement. In France, the Third Estate pushed for greater representation leading to the creation of a constitutional monarchy and then a republic.

## Conflict

1. Were the American colonists justified in their revolution against King George III?

The American colonists benefited from the Seven Years War and many leaders in England felt that it was only right for the American colonists to share the financial burden of the war. The taxes Parliament imposed were very unpopular with the colonists and sparked many protests, boycotts and destruction. Parliament tried different tax plans, but ultimately the problem for colonists came down to representation. They wanted a voice in Parliament and this was denied them. On this point, the colonists were justified in seeking change.

## Plot

1. Compare and contrast the French and American Revolutions?

Both revolutions were inspired by the Enlightenment ideals. The Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of the Right of Man both point to the natural rights of man, that all men should be treated equally before the law. The character of each movement was shaped by their individual circumstances though. The American Revolution ultimately was about independence from Great Britain. The French on the other hand were faced with having to reform their society from within.

## Characters

1. How did Maximilian Robespierre change the direction of the French Revolution?

Robespierre and the Jacobin party committed to more radical change moved the French toward a republic from a constitutional monarchy. Nevertheless, they were less tolerant of dissent. The Reign of Terror dealt with dissent harshly and spiraled France into a wave of executions. Thousands were killed by guillotine. It was only brought to an end with the execution of Robespierre.

## Resolution

1. What was the impact of Napoleon Bonaparte?

After the chaos of the Reign of Terror, the people looked for stability and peace. They hoped Napoleon, a popular military leader of the French Revolutionary Wars, would provide that. He was able to centralize the government and create the Napoleonic Code that protected basic freedoms and guaranteed equality before the law. He led France to many wars and was very successful in conquering much of Europe, spreading the ideas of the revolution with him. He was finally stopped at the Battle of Waterloo and sent into exile. The era of absolute monarchs was in decline afterwards.

## Theme

1. Which revolution do you think was most successful? Why?