



WHICH REVOLUTION IS IT? ENGLISH, FRENCH, OR AMERICAN

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Identify key people, events, and effects of the revolutions in England, France, and the United States.
2. Compare the causes and effects of the English, French, and American Revolutions.

TEKS: WH 9A, WH 9B

Materials Needed: One set of Revolution Cards for each group of three or four students.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Have the students review major events as well as the causes and effects of the English, French, and American Revolutions.
2. Divide the class into groups of three or four and give each group a set of three revolution cards.
3. Explain that the teacher is going to read statements about the three political revolutions. Be sure the students understand that each statement will represent one, two, or all three revolutions. They will listen to each statement and decide individually which revolution(s) the statement is describing. After each student has individually deliberated, the students should discuss his/her ideas with the group. The group should then decide on the final answer.
4. When all groups are ready, the teacher should call for each group to share their answer at the same time by holding up the card or cards representing their choice of revolution(s). When all groups have shown their answer, the teacher should ask for a representative from several of the groups to defend their choice of answers with factual support. A suggested key is provided with examples of some of the support they might give.
5. At the conclusion of the exercise, have each student answer the following questions with support to formatively assess their understanding of the causes and effects of these three political revolutions.
 - a. Which revolution was the least effective in achieving the goals of the revolution?
 - b. Which revolution was the most successful in achieving the goals?
 - c. Which revolution has had the most impact on others?

Which Revolution Is It? Scenarios

1. Succeeded within 20 years in achieving a written plan for a democratic-republican government that has lasted more than 200 years.
American—The U.S. Constitution was adopted in 1789 and is still in effect as the plan of government for the United States today, making it the oldest written constitution in the world.
2. Resulted in the public execution of the rulers that were in charge at the onset of the revolution.
French and English—Louis XVI of France and Charles I of England were both tried and executed during the revolution.
3. Led by the Puritans who wanted both political and religious freedom.
English—The Puritans, led by Oliver Cromwell, were motivated by the desire for political freedom as well as the freedom to worship as they please. They did not like the fact the Anglican state church had not reformed enough from the Catholic Church after the Reformation.
4. Spelled out the goals and reasons for the revolution in the document titled the *Declaration of Independence*.
American—The Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the 2nd Continental Congress in July 1776. It changed the goal and purpose of the fighting between the colonists and British which had begun one year earlier. Jefferson asserted that the English government had broken the contract with the people and therefore they had the right to revolt and establish their own government.
5. Caused primarily because the rights of the citizens had been abused.
American—Colonists were claiming “no taxation without representation” as well as the fact that basic rights guaranteed to English citizens were being denied.
French—The Third Estate was by far the majority, yet had very few rights and were dominated and often abused by the First Estate (clergy) and the Second Estate (nobles).
English—The Puritans were often persecuted for desiring both the political and religious rights they felt they were entitled to as British citizens.
6. Resulted in a government controlled by the Lord Protector who was in essence a military dictator.
English—Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads defeated Charles I and his Cavaliers. He took over the government and the title of Lord Protector when factions in Parliament could not gain control and govern.
7. Resulted in a written plan of government that failed primarily because it created a confederation with very little power to the central government.
American—The first plan of government, the Articles of Confederation, had been created because the states were afraid of a strong central government. When problems with defense and trade emerged, the states sent delegates to a convention in Philadelphia, which abandoned the Articles and wrote the U.S. Constitution.
8. Resulted in a leader who emerged after the revolution unifying the country as well as building an expansive empire across the European continent.

French—After defeating the countries that were waging war on the borders of France in an attempt to stop the revolution, Napoleon seized control and later became emperor. He then began to build an empire across Europe. He was only stopped after attempting to invade Russia.

9. Began with the Storming of the Bastille in an attempt to free political prisoners.
French—On July 14, 1789, French citizens stormed the Bastille, an old prison they felt held many citizens the government had imprisoned.
10. Restored the monarchy, but one with powers limited by a Bill of Rights.
English—Charles II first signed the Petition of Rights and restored the monarchy. When he died without an heir, his brother James came to the throne. His wife was Catholic. When they had a son, the British decided to remove him as king in what was known as the Glorious or Bloodless Revolution. William and Mary (Protestants) were asked to rule only after agreeing to sign the English Bill of Rights.
11. Spelled out the goals of the revolution in the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*.
French—Adopted by the National Convention in 1789; it proclaimed that the natural rights of man were universal for all.
12. Highlighted by a Reign of Terror in which thousands of citizens were executed because they were thought to be enemies of the revolution.
French—From 1793 to 1794, tens of thousands of citizens were executed as enemies of the revolution. The Reign of Terror began with the execution of King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette and ended with the execution of Robespierre, the leader of the radicals in charge of the executions. The Reign of Terror occurred while the other European countries were attempting to stop the revolution at the borders of France.
13. Involved other countries providing significant military and financial aid to aid those who rebelled.
American—France, Spain, and the Dutch aided the Americans primarily because they saw it as an opportunity to weaken the British.
14. Involved other countries trying to stop the revolution.
French—Most European countries tried to stop the revolution raging inside France because they were afraid the ideals of the Revolution (“Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity”) might spread to their countries.
15. Influenced by the writings of Hobbes and Locke as well as later Enlightenment philosophers Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Rousseau.
American and French—Hobbes and Locke both wrote about the existence of a social contract between the government and the people; Montesquieu wrote about separating the power of government to prevent abuse; Voltaire wrote about freedom of speech and religion; Rousseau wrote about the equality of man. These ideas can be found in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the French Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

16. Influenced Simon Bolivar and San Martin to lead revolutions for independence in many Latin American countries.
American and French—The ideas of both revolutions were used to arouse Latin Americans to revolt. When Napoleon removed the Spanish king and replaced him with his brother, Latin Americans felt no loyalty to the French king. Even after the Spanish king was restored with the defeat of Napoleon, rebellions continued to break out all over Latin America.
17. Demands for reform from the middle class helped start the revolution.
English—In England the Puritans most of whom were merchants and farmers in the middle class demanded more rights and say in taxes.
American—Merchants in Boston, such as Sam Adams and Hancock, formed the Sons of Liberty and rebelled at the economic policies passed by Parliament.
French—The bourgeoisie (middle class) of the Third Estate demanded political and economic equality with the First and Second Estates in what was known as the Tennis Court Oath.
18. Thomas Hobbes wrote *Leviathan* and John Locke wrote *Two Treatises on Government* in response to the revolution.
English—Hobbes wrote about the horrors of the English Civil War. He believed even though government was a social contract the people should give up their rights to a strong ruler to keep order. Locke wrote that the responsibility of government was to guarantee unalienable rights to its citizens and if this didn't happen or those rights were violated, then the people had the right to change or abolish the government. His ideas were used to topple James II in the second English revolution called the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and later by Thomas Jefferson in the writing of the Declaration of Independence.
19. Military leaders from other countries came to participate with as well as train the Revolutionary military.
American—Baron von Steuben from Prussia, Kosciuszko from Poland, and Lafayette and Admiral de Grasse from France came and provided necessary military experience to the volunteer American army and navy.
20. Has had only two written constitutions since the Revolution.
American—the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution. The French has had as many as 17 Constitutions. The British have an “unwritten” constitution using such documents as the Magna Carta, the Writ of Habeas Corpus, the Petition of Rights, the English Bill of Rights and laws of Parliament as the foundation of their government.

ENGLISH REVOLUTION



Charles I
1599-1641

AMERICAN REVOLUTION



George III
1760-1820

FRENCH REVOLUTION



Louis XVI
1774-1793