

Name _____

French Revolution Dinner Party

The year is 1792 and revolution is raging across France. As an enlightened member of society, you are hosting a dinner party hoping to bring all sides together and make peace. To do so, the seating arrangement is very important. Your guests should all be seated next to someone they have things in common with. The guest list includes:

Louis XVI

Georges Danton

Jean-Paul Marat

Abbé Sieyès

Robespierre

Marie Antoinette

Napoleon Bonaparte

Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor

In each square, draw that person's picture and write their name underneath. Then figure out who they would most like to talk to and seat that person next to them. In the space provided, explain what made you seat them that way and what they will talk about.

Are seated next to each other because....

Are seated next to each other because....

Are seated next to each other because....

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Louis XVI

Louis XVI was the last monarch of France before the French Revolution. Although beloved at first, his indecisiveness and conservatism eventually led to a decline in popularity. He was married to Marie Antoinette, but the union was not well taken by the French people, who were angered by an alliance with Austria and the disastrous Seven Years' War.

As France's national debt skyrocketed, Louis was forced to give up absolute rule and consult the Estates-General in an attempt to save his country. The Estates-General had not convened since 1614, but they quickly moved into the old divisions of First, Second, and Third Estate, made up of the three classes of people, that met to discuss the future of the government. The event quickly led to talk of Revolution and the establishment of a National Assembly by the largely-excluded Third Estate. He and his family tried to escape the Revolution in 1791 but they were caught trying to flee, and upon their return the royal family was placed under house arrest.



Georges Danton

Georges Danton was a leader of the early stage of the French Revolution known as the Reign of Terror. As first President of the Committee of Public Safety, Danton was described as a chief force in the overthrow of the French monarchy and creation of the First Republic. Danton saw radical Paris as the only force to which the National Convention could look in resisting Austria and its allies on the north-east frontier, and the reactionaries in the interior. He would eventually vote for the death of Louis XVI. After the execution had been carried out, he stated, "The kings of Europe would dare challenge us? We throw them the head of a king!"



Jean-Paul Marat

Jean-Paul Marat was a leader of the Reign of Terror in France and the partner of another famous man of that period, Maximilian Robespierre. While also a political theorist and scientist, he was best known as a radical journalist. His writing was renowned for its fiery character and uncompromising stance toward "enemies of the revolution" and basic reforms for the poorest members of society. He was one of the more extreme voices behind the French Revolution, Marat was one of the most important men in France.



Abbé Sieyès

Abbé Sieyès was a French Roman Catholic clergyman and political writer. He was one of the chief political theorists of the French Revolution, and his 1789 pamphlet *What is the Third Estate?* became the manifesto of the Revolution, helping to transform the Estates-General into the National Assembly in June 1789. Despite being a member of the First Estate, he was elected deputy for the Third Estate to the Estates-General. He helped to write *the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen*, which argued for natural rights for all men in France.

Sieyès's pamphlet played a key role in shaping the currents of revolutionary thought that propelled France towards the French Revolution. In it, he outlined the desires and frustrations of the alienated class of people that made up the third estate. He attacked the foundations of the French Old Régime by arguing the nobility to be a fraudulent institution, preying on an overburdened and despondent bourgeoisie.



Robespierre

Maximilian Robespierre was a French lawyer, politician, and one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution.

As a member of the Estates-General, the Constituent Assembly and the Jacobin Club, he advocated against the death penalty and for the abolition of slavery, while supporting equality of rights, universal suffrage and the establishment of a republic. He also was greatly opposed to a war with Austria. As a member of the Committee of Public Safety, he was instrumental in the period of the Revolution commonly known as the Reign of Terror. During this time, Robespierre and others sent thousands of enemies of the Revolution to their deaths by the guillotine.

Influenced by 18th-century Enlightenment philosophes such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Montesquieu, he was a capable articulator of the beliefs of the left-wing bourgeoisie. His supporters called him "The Incorruptible", while his adversaries called him *dictateur sanguinaire* (bloodthirsty dictator).



Marie Antoinette

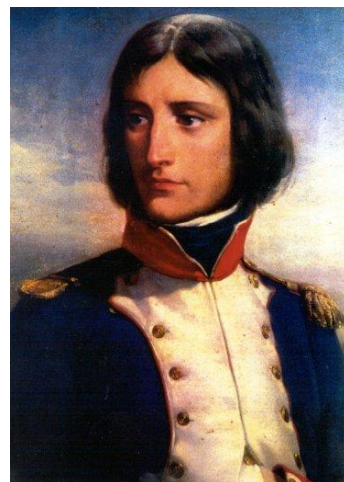
Marie Antoinette was born an archduchess of Austria and, after marrying, assumed the title of Queen of France when her husband, Louis XVI of France, ascended the throne. After seven years of marriage, she gave birth to a daughter, Marie-Thérèse Charlotte, the first of four children.

Initially charmed by her personality and beauty, the French people generally came to dislike her, accusing her of being spending too much money on frivolous things and of harboring sympathies for France's enemies, particularly Austria, her country of origin. Despite the French people's intense dislike for her during the days of the Revolution, she still hoped for a future where her son would still be able to rule, convinced that the violence would soon pass.



Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon Bonaparte was a brilliant military commander in the French army from the island of Corsica. His father was Corsica's representative to the court of Louis XVI. During the Revolution, he published a pro-republican pamphlet, *Le souper de Beaucaire* (Supper at Beaucaire), which gained him the admiration and support of Augustin Robespierre, younger brother of the Revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre. He was then put in charge of French Republican military forces. He would eventually go on to become Emperor of France and sought to spread the ideals of the French Revolution. He also, however, created an imperial monarchy which restored aspects of the Old Régime.



Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor

Leopold II was Holy Roman Emperor and King of Hungary and Bohemia. He was a son of Emperor Francis I and his wife, Empress Maria Theresa. Leopold was a moderate proponent of enlightened absolutism. Enlightened despots like Leopold II embraced the principles of the Enlightenment and applied them to their territories. They tended to allow religious toleration, and freedom of speech and the press. His sister was Marie Antoinette, wife of King Louis XVI and Queen of France. During the French Revolution, she sent him passionate appeals for help. Leopold II promised to help his sister if she and her husband could escape from Paris. In the Declaration of Pillnitz, he and Frederick William II of Prussia declared their support for King Louis XVI of France against the French Revolution.

