

Knowledge Organiser: SUMMER 1

Year 5 European History: French Revolution

Vocabulary	Meaning
revolution	a forcible overthrow of a government in favour of a new system
corrupt	having or showing a willingness to act dishonestly in return for money or personal gain
divine right of kings	chosen by God to be king
government	the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state
equality	being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities
revolutionary	people who advocate or engage in political revolution
monarch	a sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor
reform	change often in order to improve
bankruptcy	when a person is unable to pay their debts
absolute monarchy	complete authority
prosecution	carrying out legal proceedings against someone because of a criminal charge
pre- revolution	before the revolution
counter revolution	a revolution in response to another revolution
supreme	highest in range or authority

Key knowledge – Significant figures

Louis XVI – was the last King of France before the fall of the monarchy during the French Revolution. He was executed by guillotine in1792.



Napoleon Bonaparte dominated French and European history from 1799 to 1815. In a sense he bought the French Revolution to an end in 1799.

Key knowledge – Places & Facts

In 1789, a state prison (Bastille) was attacked by an angry and aggressive mob. The event became a defining moment in the Revolution.



The guillotine was used as an execution method. After Louis XVI execution this led to the Reign of Terror – a series of public executions took place.



American Revolution 1776-1781 French Revolution 1789-1799