



LIBERTÉ

A simulation of the French Revolution

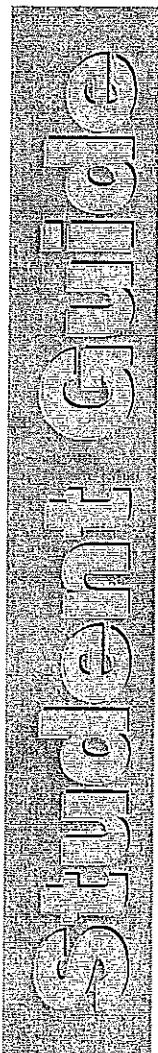
INTRODUCTION

In LIBERTÉ your classroom becomes France in 1789, as social, financial, and political tensions explode into the French Revolution. You will join one of five social groups or factions: the royalty, the clergy, the nobles, the bourgeoisie, or the peasants. Politically some of you will have great power; others will be powerless. But when the Estates-General is called and the National Assembly is formed, your political situation will change. You will also decide the fate of Louis XVI, who will face trial for treason. While all of these struggles are going on, whose heads are going to roll?

Your grade in LIBERTÉ depends upon how many RIPS you earn. (RIPS are Revolutionary Influence Points, which are given as money.) Your grade also depends upon the ARS value of your property at the end of the simulation. (ARS represent Arpents, which was the French measure of land.)

Your grade will also be influenced by forces beyond your control. Political turmoil is simulated in LIBERTÉ with Pressure Cards. These historical bulletins cause you to gain or lose RIPS or ARS, directly affecting your income and your status. Some Pressure Cards may be used as evidence in the trial of Louis XVII!

You may increase your RIPS by both individual and group effort.



INDIVIDUAL EFFORT

- Achieving on tests and assignments
- Engaging in the financial activity appropriate to your faction (collecting taxes, tithing, trading, or meeting feudal obligations)
- Selling your property
- Investigating your role as a historical personage and assuming his or her attitude throughout LIBERTÉ
- Gathering data through research in order to effect decisions in the National Assembly
- Examining all evidence in support of or denial of various indictments made against your king

GROUP EFFORT

- Working with your faction to collect money, make money, or provide services
- Sharing research responsibilities with your factions—joining an “opinion group” which investigates items on the National Assembly’s agenda in order to influence legislation
- Joining Robespierre as a Jacobin to organize the Reign of Terror

ENTER THE REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD AND LIVE ITS PROBLEMS

- Social, political, philosophical, and economic conditions that fostered the French Revolution;
- Influence of group opinion upon legislation;
- Difficulty of reaching an historical conclusion when you only have contradictory or scanty evidence;
- Parallels between forces causing the French Revolution and contemporary forces pressuring for revolution both abroad and in America.

Good luck in the perilous days ahead!

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Liberte

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FACTION DESCRIPTIONS

ROYALTY

Louis XVI, By Grace of God, King of France and Navarre

Although you are the absolute ruler of France, along with power your monarchy has inherited an enormous debt. Your ancestor, Louis XIV, the Sun King, built the elegant palace at Versailles, lived sumptuously, and engaged in several foreign wars. Your grandfather, Louis XV, in addition to supporting his own luxurious living, also donated men and money to the cause of the American Revolution. Neither he nor you has reversed your monarchy's increasing slide toward bankruptcy. And then your wife hasn't helped. She too spends heavily, investing in the finest palaces, parties, clothes, and jewelry. With a reputation for a love of gambling, she has become known as Madame Deficit.

The National debt is yours to pay off through taxation. Reduce it as much as you can before the opening of the Estates-General. You may sell titles with the help of your nobles and grant privileges for payment. Your finance ministers are urging you to tax the nobles who are unwilling to part with their privileges, for at the present time the full burden of taxation rests on the bourgeoisie and the peasants. You have appealed to the parlement (high court of the nobles) for a loan and possible tax increase, but they have refused your appeal—until you sanction the calling of the Estates-General.

Again and again your finance ministers warn you of approaching economic disaster. You are considering insuring payment by using Lettres de Cachet (letters with your signature sending persons to the Bastille). If you issue such Lettres, you need only write in the name of the person who is to be imprisoned in the Bastille.

Marie Antoinette, Queen of France

As the daughter of Marie Terese of Austria you were married to the Dauphin, Louis of France, as a political alliance that pleased your ambitious mother. Your loneliness at leaving your home and your country so young is forgotten only during the magnificent and expensive parties you secretly attend in Paris. Frequent masqued balls, elegant displays of fireworks, extravagant wardrobes, and a private palace in the country soon earn for you the scorn of the French people. Your interest in money is unquestionable. It is to your advantage to help the king reduce the National Debt.



Queen Marie Antoinette

BOURGEOISIE

You are a member of the middle class of two million (seven times the number of nobles and clergy in France). Some of you are businessmen in commerce, foreign and domestic trade; others of you own vast tracts of land, while many of you work in the cities as bankers, lawyers, doctors and scholars. You are unquestionably the educated majority. It is not enough for you to gain wealth; you also desire a share in the government. Encouraged by the success of the American Revolution, you have challenged men's minds through political pamphlets reflecting revolutionary theories of men like Rousseau, who wrote that the king rules "not by the will of God but by the will of the people," and "Men are born free, and are everywhere in chains."

Along with the peasants you are required to pay high taxes on your income, land, crops, and such necessary items as salt, tobacco, and wine. You need the freedom to operate competitively without being hampered by medieval tradition. It is time for a change!



Middle Class



With the announcement of the Estates-General, you are encouraged by a royal decree to elect twice as many representatives as the First and Second Estates. However, the king fails to mention that the one-vote-per-estate still remains in effect, meaning that on all important issues, the commoner will be outvoted two to one. Nothing can be accomplished until the vote is individual.

ESTATES-GENERAL: PROCEDURE

In preparation for the Estates-General, each estate must write a Cahier. (Consult the CAHIER FORM.) Clergy are the First Estate; Nobles, the Second Estate; and Bourgeoisie, the Third Estate. Half the members of each estate research "historical" grievances and half catalogue "simulation" grievances (i.e., injustice between factions, inequalities in taxes, privileges and political power, etc.). The Peasants will write only the "simulation" grievances. Since the Cahiers had the effect of stimulating critical thinking but had no legal force, they will provide background for decisions and reactions in the Estates-General and the National Assembly. They will have no "legal" power in the simulation.

The king prepares an address on "The Tradition of a Divine Right Monarchy." Necker, the banker, speaks on "The Financial Condition of the Government." The king may invite nobles or clergy to help him plan a ceremonious opening and closing with music, costumes, etc., since the opening of the Estates-General was accompanied with much splendor. The places of honor were given, of course, to the royalty, nobles and clergy. The Third Estate, ordered to wear traditional black clothes in contrast to the brilliant silks and embroidery of the upper classes, were last in line to enter the meeting. Crowds lining the streets withheld their cheers and enthusiasm for the appearance of "their" representatives.



Clergy—First Estate



Nobles—Second Estate



Bourgeoisie—Third Estate

ESTATES-GENERAL: AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony and welcome by his majesty, Louis XVI, by the grace of God, King of France and Navarre
2. Presentation of the Cahiers
3. Speech by Necker
4. Proposal by the king for a loan of (80 million livre) 5,000 RIPS
5. Vote by estate (not as individuals)
6. Meeting ceremoniously closed

(Throughout the legislative proceedings the peasant is free to write messages to representatives: only one peasant can be the messenger.)

PERSONALITY DESCRIPTION FORM (model)

Directions: Using your own 8 and 1/2 x 11 inch paper, follow the model below.

You may use direct quotations if you wish—any time in this activity. →

The (1:37) is your source of your information found on page 37 of source #1. →

Use correct bibliographical form: author, title, city of publication, publisher, date of publication →

Name: _____	Due date: _____
Your identity: _____	
Describe your personal traits in the first person: _____	
_____	(1:74)
State how you think you would have stood on issues before the revolution began: _____	
... during the National Assembly: _____	(1:37)
... during Louis XVI's trial: _____	(3:90)
... during the Reign of Terror: _____	(2:16)
If you survived the revolution, how did you manage? _____	
Sources: 1. _____	
2. _____	
3. _____	
4. _____	