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GUIDED READING Revolution Threatens the French King

Date

A. Perceiving Cause and Effect As you read about the dawn of revolution in France, write notes to answer questions about the causes of the French Revolution.

How did each of the following contribute t	o the revolutionary mood in France?
1. The three estates	2. Enlightenment ideas
3. Economic crisis	4. Weak leadership
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5. Meeting of the Estates-General	6. Establishment of the National Assembly
7. Tennis Court Oath	8. Storming of the Bastille

PRIMARY SOURCE La Marseillaise

Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, a French captain of the engineers, composed this rousing patriotic song during the French Revolution. Because of its revolutionary associations, "La Marseillaise" was banned by Napoleon Bonaparte and by Louis XVIII. Why do you think this song was later adopted as the national anthem of France?

Come, children of the Fatherland
Our day of glory has come!
Against us the bloody flag of tyranny is raised!
The bloody flag is raised.
Can you hear in the country
The shrieks of those ferocious soldiers?
They come to our very arms
To slaughter our sons and our wives:
To arms, citizens!
Form your battalions!
March forth! March forth!
Let their impure blood water our fields!

from Olivier Bernier, Words of Fire, Deeds of Blood: The Mob, the Monarchy, and the French Revolution (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1989), 351.

