Directions: Visit the website [http://www.activehistory.co.uk/main_area/games/yr9_french_rev/frameset.htm](http://www.activehistory.co.uk/main_area/games/yr9_french_rev/frameset.htm) and login using the username: cvhs and the password: history. Play the game and complete the following worksheet as you go.

# Causes of the French Revolution Web Activity

## 1. The Three Estates

People in France were organised into three groups or “Estates”. Connect the statement on the left to the correct words on the right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The First Estate is…</th>
<th>… the Peasantry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Second Estate is…</td>
<td>… the Nobility (lords)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Third Estate is…</td>
<td>… the Clergy (churchmen)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now complete the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Do they pay tax?</th>
<th>What jobs do they do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Churchmen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nobles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Peasants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of these three groups do you think is most likely to cause trouble for the King? Explain your answer.

## 2. King Louis XVI

What sorts of nasty things are the newspapers saying about the King (and good points)?

## 3. The American War of Independence

Why did the King want to send over troops?
What were the results of his policies?

4. The Economy

Why doesn’t the King have any money?

What does he do to get more money?

Was this a good idea? Why?

5. The Affair of the Necklace

Did the King agree to buy his wife the necklace? Why?

The necklace was then stolen by a local prostitute. How and why did this damage the prestige of the monarchy?

6. Enlightenment Ideas

What sorts of things were philosophers starting to say about the King?

Write down one of the quotes given in the game, and the name of the man who said it.

7. The Estates General

Why did the King call a Parliament in 1788?

Why was it called the “Estates General”?
8. The Tennis Court Oath

Why did the Third Estate storm out of the Estates General?

What was the “Tennis Court Oath”?

9. The Fall of the Bastille

Why did the people of Paris attack the Bastille?

Who led them? What did he say?

10. The New Constitution

What decisions did the National assembly reach on each of the following issues:

1. How often should the assembly be elected?
2. Who should be allowed to stand for election to the Assembly?

3. Should the King still be allowed to veto (block) any of our reforms?
4. Should the Tax system be changed?
5. Should the Church be allowed to raise taxes and own land?

11. The King’s Reaction: (a) The Cap of Liberty

What was the “Cap of Liberty”?

What did Louis do with it?

12. The King’s Reaction: (b) The Flight to Varennes

Why did the King decide to make a run for it?
What happened?

13. Ordinary people turn against the King: The “September Massacres”

What were the “September Massacres”?

How did other European countries react to the “September Massacres”?

(b) The New Parliament (Trial, execution)

What was the reaction following the attempt of the King to escape from France?

14. Parliament turns against the King: The Convention

What did the Convention decide to do about:
(a) The monarchy in general?

(b) Louis in particular?

Describe in detail what happened to the King on 21st January 1793.

Extension Question
In your view, what was the single most important factor which made the French Revolution happen? Explain your answer carefully.