

Escape Game Manual :

The Bastille Challenge



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2024

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ISBN 978-93-340-9259-2

First published in Goa, India in 2024.

Cover Illustration by Midjourney.

PREFACE

Escape games are much more than just entertainment. They are powerful educational tools for creating immersive and engaging learning experiences. These games stimulate critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication—essential 21st-century skills. They allow participants to dive into historical or fictional contexts, making learning dynamic and memorable.

This **Guide for Educators** aims to provide all the necessary instructions to organize the game "The Bastille Challenge." This content is licensed under CC BY NC SA, allowing anyone to freely reuse this resource after citation for non-commercial purposes and adapt it to their needs. If you use this game, share your experience with us! To learn more about our future games, contact us by email or on Instagram.

This project is the culmination of two of our passions: game design and history. We have also experimented using AI tools like ChatGPT and Midjourney to create this resource.

We thank Goa University for their support in creating this learning experience. A big thank you to our students who tested this game.

We hope this game brings as much enjoyment and learning to your participants as it did to our students. Good luck and long live the Revolution!

Natasha Gomes and Irene Silveira

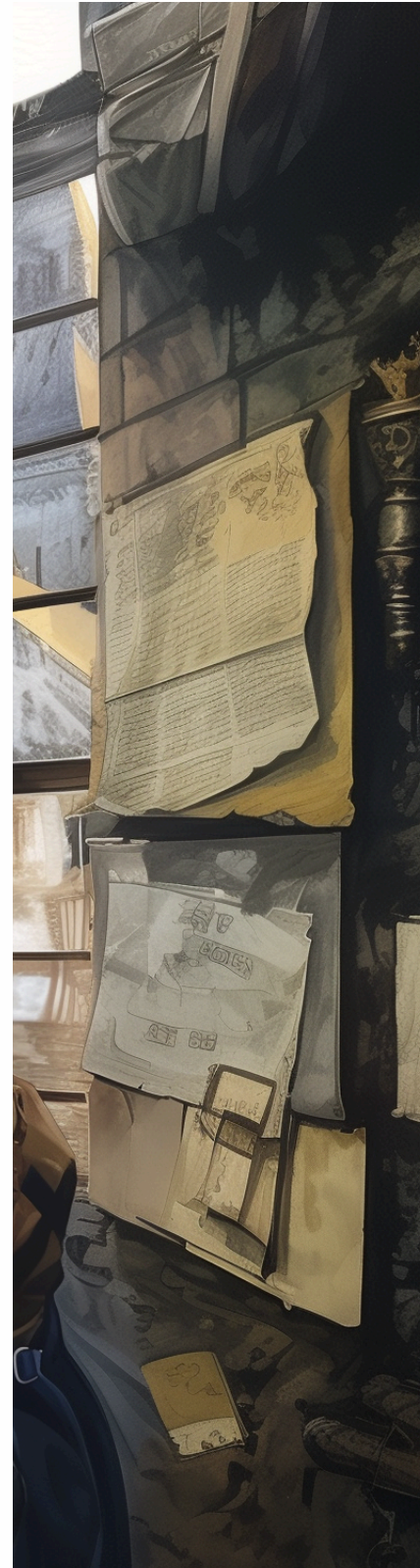


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OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

The goal of the escape game ‘The Bastille Challenge’ is to immerse participants in the revolutionary atmosphere of July 1789. As revolutionaries, they need to infiltrate a secret room in the Bastille, retrieve crucial information for the success of the revolution, and escape before the guard changes. Players need to solve a series of riddles and puzzles to complete their mission within a limited time. The game aims to stimulate collaboration, critical thinking, and historical engagement among participants.

Cognitive Objectives:

- Memorize key historical events of the French Revolution.
- Use clues to solve riddles.
- Identify relationships between different clues.
- Combine clues to form a coherent solution.

Socio-Affective Objectives:

- Collaborate with other participants to solve the riddles.
- Effectively share found information and clues.

Psychomotor Objectives:

- Handle objects and clues with precision.
- Spot important details on maps and documents.

21st Century Skills:

During the game, participants will practice essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking by analyzing and evaluating information to make informed decisions. They will practice problem-solving by finding creative solutions to challenges encountered. Collaboration will be crucial as they will need to work as a team to achieve a common goal. Additionally, clear and effective communication will be necessary to share information and clues, enhancing their ability to convey ideas concisely and understandably.

DETAILS

Who can play ‘The Bastille Challenge’?

This version of the game is open to everyone having at least A1 level in both English and French. The clues are provided in English, while the maps are in French. The use of tools like Google Translate and Generative AI such as ChatGPT is allowed. The French version of the clues and Manual are also [available](#).

When can the game be played?

This game can be played as a standalone activity, or as part of a history class about the French Revolution, and even in an English and French Language Class.

What is the ideal group size for an optimal gaming experience?

We recommend groups of 3 to 4 participants. However, the game can also be played solo.

How long is each game session?

Participants have 25 minutes to complete their mission and escape.

INITIAL MESSAGE TO PARTICIPANTS

Come participate in an immersive and historical adventure!

What's an escape game?

An escape game is a life-size adventure game where participants need to solve a series of puzzles and riddles to escape before time runs out.

Your Mission:

It is 1789, at the heart of the French Revolution. As revolutionaries, you have managed to infiltrate a secret room in the Bastille Prison. You have only 25 minutes to retrieve crucial information for the success of the Revolution and escape before the guard changes. If you fail, the Revolution might fail, and history would change forever.

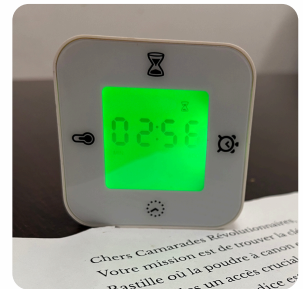
Will you be up to this historic mission?

Sign up now and join the heroes of the Revolution!

You can sign up solo or in teams of 2 to 3 members. But shhh, keep this to yourselves and only share this information with your fellow revolutionaries.

OBJECTS

- A key
- A stopwatch
- 2 three-digit padlocks
- 2 lockable boxes
- The map of Paris from 1789
- The map of the Bastille prison
- Newspapers from 1789
- Books (novels, magazines, etc.) where messages can be hidden
- Blank sheets of paper and pencils



BEFORE THE GAME

- **Choose** a closed space for the game, with a table
- **Print** the map of Paris from 1789 on a large sheet. Preferably in A1 size for better readability and immersive experience. For a more visually appealing effect, print the map in color. Mount the map in a visible area of the game space, ideally at eye level for the participants.
- **Print** the other documents in black and white. To give them an antique look, you can stain them with tea or coffee.
- **Place** the printed newspapers on the table.
- **Gather** the items: 1 stopwatch, 2 padlocks, 2 boxes.
- **Place** in Box 1: Clue 5.
- **Place** in Box 2: Clue 6 and a key.
- **Prepare** a corner or shelf for books. The titles of some books will appear in Clue 2. Cut Clue 3 into 3 parts and place one part in each of the 3 books mentioned in Clue 2.

GAMEPLAY

1. After registration, give participants clue 1.

Clue 1 :

Dear Comrade Revolutionaries,

On [Date] at [Time], wear a red garment or accessory and look for the person wearing blue [e.g., near the end of this hallway].

Whisper the code "Let's dance the Carmagnole or Dansons la Carmagnole" to receive your second clue. Destroy this message after reading it. Long live Liberty!

2. After finding the person mentioned in Clue 1, participants must say the code to receive Clue 2.

Clue 2 :

Dear Comrade Revolutionaries,

Your mission is to find the key to the Bastille chamber where the gunpowder is stored. This will give our comrades crucial access to resources.

Your next clue is hidden in 3 books.

Look for books with the following keywords in their titles:
[Example: Blue, Celebrations, Grammaire.]

You will find bits of paper in these books.

Place these together to discover the clue 3

You have 25 minutes the guards have just left for their break.

Your stopwatch starts now.

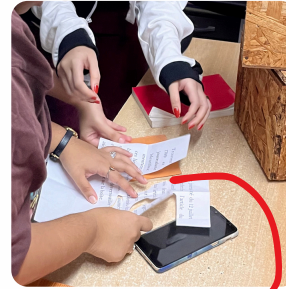
Go to room [Number/Name] where you will find your clue 3.
Hurry! Vive la Liberté ! Long live Liberty!



You can include the titles of the books you have at your disposal. If possible, choose titles related to the theme of the game.

GAMEPLAY

3.Clue 3 is hidden in the books. Participants must search for these books. When they find the pieces of paper hidden in 3 books, they assemble and then read Clue 3.



Clue 3 :

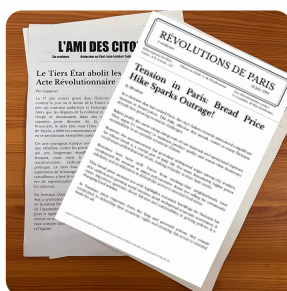
Find the newspaper dated July 12, 1789, and look for the article by journalist Camille Desmoulins.

Identify three places in Paris mentioned in the article.

Locate these Parisian locations on the legend of the map and note their corresponding numbers mentioned in the boxes.

These three numbers will help you unlock the numeric code on box 1.

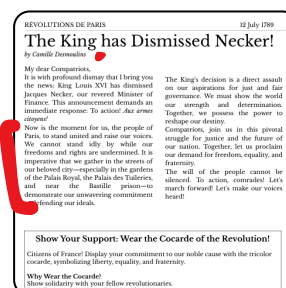
4. Clue 4 is found in the newspapers from 1789. Participants identify the 3 locations mentioned in the article by Camille Desmoulins.



Clue 4 :
2 newspapers



12 July 1789



Article by
C. Desmoulins.

The 3 Parisian
places can be
found on page 2,
paragraph 2 of
newspaper

GAMEPLAY

Then, participants look for the corresponding numbers on the legend of the 1789 Paris map. These 3 numbers will help them unlock the padlock of the first Box.

Legend of the map



A zoomed-in French map (translation apps may be used) or an English map can be provided.



The code for the padlock is 475.

5. In box 1, participants find Clue 5

Clue 5 :

- **Where are the ammunitions that the people will use to storm the Bastille stored?**

The place where the rifles (in French *fusils*) are stored will be mentioned in the legend of the map. Note the number associated with this place.

- **The King, Louis __ has dismissed Necker.**

Identify the number assigned to the King of France during the Revolution of 1789. The answer can be found in the legend of the map, as well as in the newspapers.

Use this information to open the second padlock.

GAMEPLAY

Participants can use Google services or Generative Artificial Intelligence to help them find the answers.



The code for the second padlock is 516.

6. In Box 2, participants find Clue 6 and a key.

Clue 6 :

Here is the encoded message in English: [Trev gsrh pvb gl gsv kvihlm
rm illn 2]

Each letter is replaced by its opposite in the alphabet:
A = Z, B = Y, C = X, etc.

The encoded message will guide you to your final step. Good luck!
Hurry, the guards are approaching!

Decoded Message : Give this key to the person in room 2.

7. When the participants arrive at Room 2 and give the key, the game ends.

Congratulatory Message !

Félicitations ! Congratulations! You have successfully retrieved the crucial information and escaped the king's guards. The French Revolution can continue thanks to your courage and intelligence!

Participants need to hand over the keys before the 25 minutes runs out.

ADAPTATIONS

We recommend that you adapt the game based on the resources you have on hand and based on the requirements of your learners.

- You can add or modify the elements mentioned in red in the clues to fit your context and available resources.
- Feel free to adjust the difficulty of the challenges based on the age and skill level of the participants. Add clues or simplify some steps to make the game more accessible or more challenging as needed.
- If you're missing certain materials or tools, find creative alternatives that can serve the same purpose.
- If your participants have tablets or smartphones with internet access, integrate them into the game. You can create digital clues, use translation apps or Gen AI to make the experience more immersive.
- Even if the participants have no or limited knowledge of French, they should still be able to read the maps as adequate language support is provided in the clues.
- If and when required, educators can intervene and provide additional hints to participants.

If you publish your adapted version, please remember to credit us and add the same CC license to your work.

CLUES

[Click here](#) to access the editable English version of the clues or Scan this QR code.



Clue 1 :

Dear Comrade Revolutionaries,

On **[Date]** at **[Time]**, wear a red garment or accessory and look for the person wearing blue **[e.g., near the end of this hallway]**.

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You will find bits of paper in these books.

Place these together to discover the clue 3

You have 25 minutes the guards have just left for their break. Your stopwatch starts now.

Go to room **[Number/Name]** where you will find your clue 3.

Hurry! *Vive la Liberté !* Long live Liberty!

CLUES

Clue 3 :

Find the newspaper dated July 12, 1789, and look for the article by journalist Camille Desmoulins.

Identify three places in Paris mentioned in the article.

Locate these Parisian locations on the legend of the map and note their corresponding numbers mentioned in the boxes.

These three numbers will help you unlock the numeric code on box 1.

Clue 4 : In Two Newspapers

Newspaper 1: L'AMI DES CITOYENS

- English [Version PDF](#).
- [Click here](#) to access the editable English version of the newspaper or Scan this QR code



- French [Version PDF](#).
- [Click here](#) to access the editable French version of the newspaper or Scan this QR code



Newspaper 2: RÉVOLUTIONS DE PARIS

- English [Version PDF](#).
- [Click here](#) to access the editable English version of the newspaper or Scan this QR code



- French [Version PDF](#).
- [Click here](#) to access the editable French version of the newspaper or Scan this QR code



CLUES

Clue 5 :

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The place where the rifles (in French *fusils*) are stored will be mentioned in the legend of the map. Note the number associated with this place.

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Clue 6 :

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MAPS

Map of the Bastille Prison

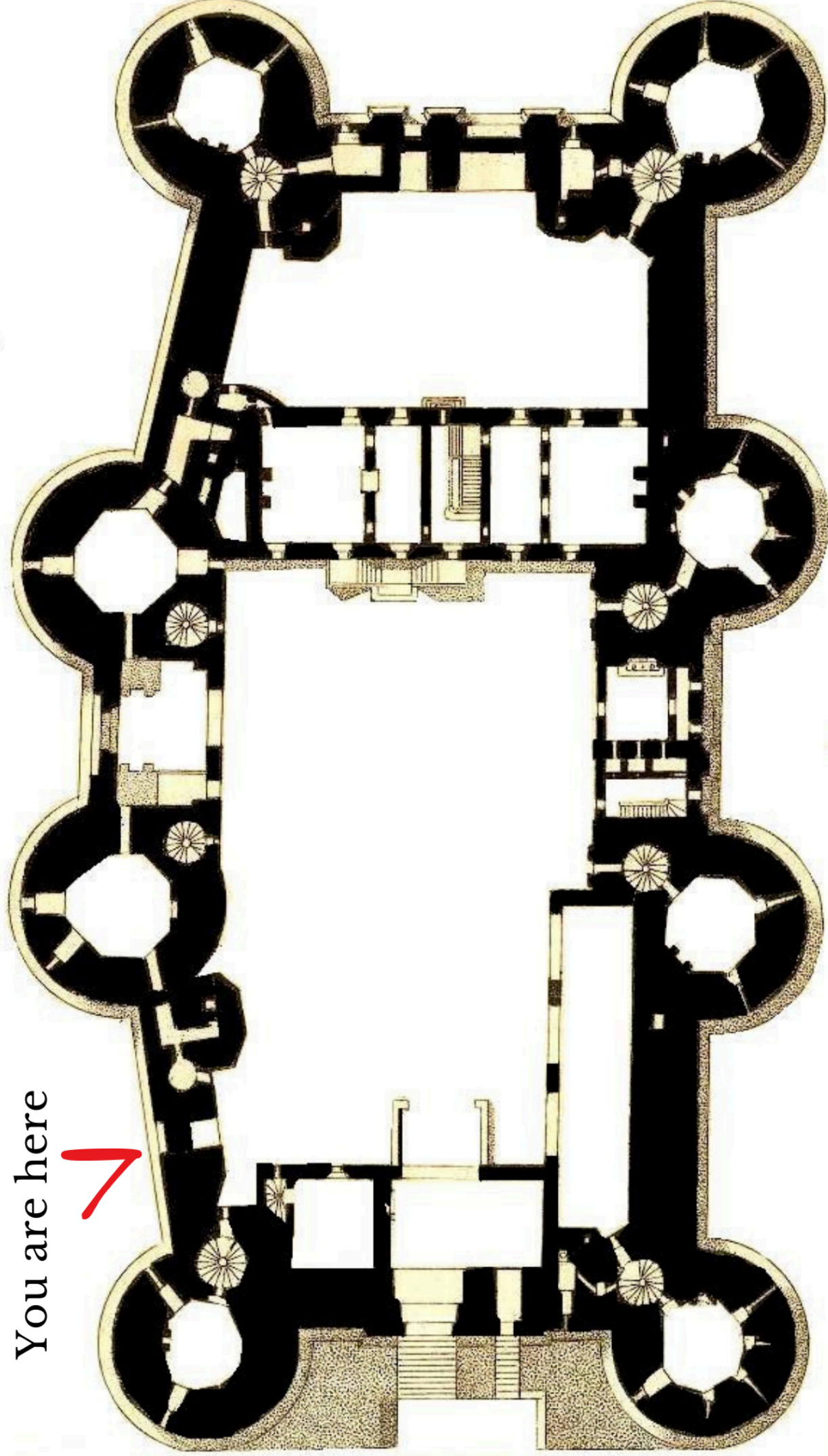
- [Plan of the Bastille Prison](#) © 2024 adapted by Natasha Maria Gomes from the [image by H. Goudemetz](#) is under the licence [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](#)
- See page 15 of this Manual

Map of Paris

- [Paris 1789-1989, sur les traces de la Révolution](#) by Durand Cartographisme, Bibliothèques spécialisées - Mairie de Paris is under Public Domain.
- [Click here](#) to download the original map in French.
- A zoomed section of the legend of the map is made available on page 16. When we printed the original map in A1 size, the text was unclear. Therefore, in this manual, we have provided a zoomed version of a portion of the legend. This section of the legend would be used to solve Clue 4 and Clue 5.
- Knowledge of French is not essential to read the map and locate required information as adequate language support is provided in the clues. If needed use of translation tools or Generative Artificial Intelligence may be permitted during the game to decipher the map.

PLAN OF THE BASTILLE PRISON

You are here



Malgré la crise économique certaine la prospérité de la France se maintient. Les inégalités sociales révoltent une bourgeoisie avide de pouvoir et imprégnée de la philosophie des Lumières.

1 5 MAI 1789 : OUVERTURE DES ETATS GENERAUX
Les parlementaires s'insurgent contre les réformes proposées pour imposer les privilèges et réclament la réunion des Etats Généraux. Ceux-ci s'ouvrent solennellement le 5 mai à Versailles.

2 17 JUIN 1789
Le Tiers Etat favorable à l'abolition des privilèges, mis à l'écart du Clergé et de la Noblesse, décide de se proclamer Assemblée Nationale.

3 20 JUIN 1789 : SERMENT DU JEU DE PAUME
Dans la **Salle du Jeu de Paume à Versailles** l'Assemblée Nationale opposé à l'absolutisme fait le serment de donner une constitution au Royaume. Le 9 juillet 1789, elle devient Assemblée Nationale Constituante.

4 11/12 JUILLET 1789 : L'AGITATION GRANDIT
Louis XVI renvoi NECKER et le remplace par un ministre autoritaire et impopulaire. Dans les **Jardins du Palais Royal (E8)**, la foule parisienne s'enflamme aux discours du journaliste Camille DESMOULIN.

5 14 JUILLET 1789 : PRISE DE LA BASTILLE
Après s'être emparée de 30.000 fusils aux Invalides (F5), la foule prend d'assaut la **prison de la Bastille (G12)** symbole de l'arbitraire royal.

Une commune insurrectionnelle se forme. Elle nomme BAILLY maire de Paris. Le Marquis de La FAYETTE héros de la guerre d'indépendance des Etats Unis devient commandant de la Garde Nationale (ancienne milice).

Le 17, ce dernier fait adopter la cocarde Tricolore aux parisiens et au Roi venu saluer la ville. Cette cocarde associe les couleurs de la ville de Paris : bleu et rouge et celle du Roi : le blanc.

6 26 AOÛT 1789 : DECLARATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DU CITOYEN

Au cours de la nuit du 4 Août, les députés abolissent les privilèges et créent ainsi un nouvel ordre social.

L'Assemblée proclame le 26 Août la déclaration des droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen.

Ce texte est inspiré par la pensée des Philosophes des Lumières, le droit anglais et la déclaration d'Indépendance des Etats Unis. Par les idées qu'il véhiculait : Liberté, Egalité, Démocratie, il eut un retentissement mondial.

Un nouvel ordre social est né.

7 5 et 6 OCTOBRE 1789

Le peuple de Paris, précédé par plusieurs milliers de femmes, va chercher la famille royale à Versailles. Avec "le boulanger, la boulangère et le petit mitron" dans ses murs, il pense éviter la famine. L'Assemblée Nationale suit Louis XVI et s'installe dans **salle du Manège (D7)** à proximité du **Palais des Tuileries (E7)**.

8 14 JUILLET 1790 : FETE DE LA FEDERATION

Pour célébrer l'an 1 de la liberté, le peuple se réunit au **Champ de Mars (F3)**. Louis XVI jure fidélité à la constitution. Les citoyens fraternisent et affirment leur patriotisme en chantant "Vive la Nation, la loi et le Roi".



Map Adapted from Paris 1789-1889, sur les traces de la Révolution by Durand Cartographie, Bibliothèques spécialisées - Mairie de Paris is under Public Domain.

L'AMI DES CITOYENS

6 centimes

Editor-in-Chief: Jean-Lambert Tallien

10 July 1789

The Third Estate Abolishes Privileges: A Revolutionary Act

by Condorcet

June 17th will be remembered as the pivotal day when France's fate took a bold and historic turn. While deputies of the nobility and clergy gathered separately to discuss the financial crisis, the Third Estate, inspired by Sieyès, defied centuries-old conventions by declaring itself the National Assembly.

This courageous move not only symbolized a revolt against the unjust privileges that had long oppressed the French people but also marked the beginning of a radical transformation in the country's political landscape. Representing the aspirations of the enlightened bourgeoisie and workers, the Third Estate heralded a new era of inclusive political representation.

By forming the National Assembly, the Third Estate demonstrated the unity and determination of the French nation to dismantle oppression and establish a fairer, more egalitarian system. This historic decision sent a resounding message: every voice would now play a crucial role in the journey towards freedom and equality.

The abolition of privileges sparked varied reactions among the nobility and clergy. While some viewed it as progress, others vehemently opposed it, underscoring deep societal divides during this tumultuous period. June 17th not only signifies a historic milestone but also serves as a rallying cry for a new France where every citizen can envision a more just and equitable future. The days ahead promise intense debates and pivotal decisions that will shape the nation's destiny.

As France embraces the era of revolution, the Third Estate's abolition of privileges sets the stage for profound and necessary transformations. Equality before the law and democratic representation now stand as foundational principles shaping the future of the French nation. In abolishing privileges, France stands at a transformative juncture. The National Assembly's bold action sparks fervent national dialogue and civic participation. As citizens and leaders navigate this pivotal moment, June 17th marks a significant step.

Peasant Revolt Rumors: Uprisings in the Provinces

by *Philippe-Antoine Grouvelle*

Alarming reports from remote provinces of France detail peasant uprisings against royal authority, amidst an unprecedented wave of unrest gripping the nation. These events underscore the growing scale of popular discontent in the face of persistent injustices and inequalities.

Rumors of peasant revolt began circulating several weeks ago, indicating turmoil in remote regions where agricultural communities have battled poverty and feudal oppression for decades. Peasants, often deprived of basic rights and burdened by crushing tax demands, have taken up arms to challenge local authorities backed by the crown.

In response to these uprisings, local lords have tightened their control and intensified the exploitation of agricultural laborers, fueling widespread anger among rural populations. These oppressive actions have heightened tensions and reinforced peasants' determination to fight for their rights and dignity.

In Paris, these reports of peasant revolt add to the existing turmoil in the capital, where citizens are gearing up to confront the challenges posed by a weakened monarchy

and unbalanced political representation.

Spirited debates in the National Assembly and preparations for the storming of the Bastille underscore the urgent need for profound social and political reform.

As France enters a critical phase of its history, reports of peasant revolt underscore the necessity for a radical overhaul of the political and social system. Aspirations for freedom and justice resonate throughout the country, uniting the voices of ordinary citizens and enlightened intellectuals in their quest for a better future for all.

Events unfolding in the provinces remind everyone that the ongoing revolution extends beyond the streets of Paris, encompassing the entire French territory. The brave souls daring to defy royal authority inspire and bolster the determination of urban revolutionaries to transform French society. The road to liberty is fraught with obstacles, but every step towards equality is a triumph for the people.

The extravagant spending of Louis XVI during a famine: An insult to the people

by Jacques-Charles Bailleul

As the people of France endure famine and misery, King Louis XVI continues to lead a lavish lifestyle, oblivious to the suffering of his subjects. This stark disconnect between the royal court and the rest of the nation only fuels the anger and despair of French citizens.

Reports pour in from across France: while peasants struggle to find food and granaries lie empty, the king and his court indulge in extravagant banquets and costly festivities at Versailles. The contrast between royal opulence and popular distress is striking and unbearable for the majority of French citizens, who are fighting for their daily survival.

Discontent grows louder among the citizens. Rumors of revolt spread through countryside and cities alike, fueled by the blatant injustice of the situation.

Conversations in cafes, markets, and homes all revolve around the same question: how much longer can the people endure this untenable situation?

Louis XVI's indifferent attitude towards the famine ravaging France may precipitate revolutionary events. The gap between the king and his people now seems insurmountable, with calls for radical governance change becoming more urgent.

Louis XVI's reckless spending during these times of famine is seen as a true insult by the French people. As the entire nation suffers and struggles to survive, the opulence of the royal court increasingly appears as a symbol of injustice and elite arrogance. Revolution seems inevitable, driven by a fervent desire for justice and change.

Wigs in Fashion

Elevate your elegance with our latest fashion wigs, perfect for any occasion! Whether it's an evening at the Opera or a stroll through the gardens of Versailles, our wigs will distinguish you with their refinement and unmatched quality.

Explore our Exquisite Collection: Powder wigs, French styles, and English designs. A variety of styles for men and women: curly, straight, adorned with ribbons and jewels. Artisan craftsmanship ensures exceptional comfort and durability.

Visit us at Le Salon des Perruques, Rue Royale, Paris.

Huge discounts and personalized service guaranteed. Don't miss our special promotion on July 10: 20% off all wigs in stock!

Let's Dance the Carmagnole: An Anthem of Revolt and Unity

by Joseph-Antoine Cerutti

Madame Veto avait promis (bis),/de faire égorger tout Paris (bis), /Mais son coup a manqué,/grâce à nos canoïners//

Chorus: *Dansons la Carmagnole/ Vive le son,/ Vive le son,/ Dansons la Carmagnole/ Vive le son du canon.*

Monsieur Veto avait promis (bis)/ D'être fidèle à son pays (bis)/ Mais il y a manqué,/Ne faisons plus quartier.//

The Carmagnole, this revolutionary song echoing through the streets of Paris and beyond, is more than just a song. Its stirring lyrics and vigorous rhythm embody the spirit of revolt that animates the French people during this period of historic upheaval. "Let's Dance the Carmagnole" has become the unofficial anthem of the French Revolution, sung by revolutionaries in the streets, cafes, and popular gatherings. The lyrics celebrate the downfall of tyrants and call for the unity of the people in their struggle for freedom and equality.

The lyrics of the Carmagnole are simple yet loaded with meaning. They evoke rebellion against oppression and the nobility, glorifying figures like Madame Veto (Marie-Antoinette) and Monsieur Deputy (the deputies of the Constituent Assembly), caricatured for their disconnect from the realities of the people. The refrain invites collective dancing as a symbol of solidarity and the strength of the united people.

The Carmagnole is primarily sung in the working-class districts of Paris, such as the Faubourg Saint-Antoine and the revolutionary sections. It accompanies moments of celebration and mobilization, from the storming of the Bastille to the revolutionary days that shake the capital. Revolutionaries use it to inspire spirits and strengthen unity within the movement.

Beyond its musical aspect, the Carmagnole represents a powerful symbol of the French Revolution. It embodies the spirit of resistance and renewal, where every voice and every movement contributes to the collective effort for a fairer and more egalitarian society. By dancing the Carmagnole, the people express their determination to transform France and defend their fundamental rights.

The Carmagnole remains a living testament to the revolutionary fervor that shook France. Through its evocative lyrics and unifying power, it continues to inspire those who strive for social justice and individual liberties. In every refrain resonates the call for freedom, an invitation to dance together towards a brighter and more equal future.

RÉVOLUTIONS DE PARIS

5 centimes

12 July 1789

Subscriptions for Paris
1 mois... 2 fr, 3 mois... 5 fr.

Editor-in-Chief: L. M. Prudhomme

For advertisements contact
E. Loustalot, 25 Rue Sonthonax.

Tension in Paris: Bread Price Hike Sparks Outrage!

by *Mirabeau*

In a decision that has rocked Paris, the city's bakers recently announced a significant increase in bread prices. This hike, effective this month, comes as many Parisians already face growing economic challenges.

Bakers justify the move citing rising costs of raw materials and operational expenses. They argue it's necessary to maintain product quality and ensure their businesses' sustainability in an unstable economic climate.

However, the announcement has provoked widespread anger among city workers, for whom bread is a crucial part of daily life. For many households, higher prices could mean added financial strain, making it harder to meet basic needs.

Reactions have been swift. Voices from working-class neighborhoods have condemned the measure as unjust and excessive. Some are calling for community solidarity and mobilization to defend fair access to essential food items.

This bread price increase not only highlights economic hardships for Parisians but also underscores growing social tensions amid widespread economic uncertainty. It raises important questions about fairness and sustainability in pricing policies in a changing food market.

As Parisians await responses from the king and potential actions, they remain committed to defending their economic rights and ensuring fair access to essential foods for all.

The King has Dismissed Necker!

by Camille Desmoulins

My dear Compatriots,

It is with profound dismay that I bring you the news: King Louis XVI has dismissed Jacques Necker, our revered Minister of Finance. This announcement demands an immediate response: To action! *Aux armes citoyens!*

Now is the moment for us, the people of Paris, to stand united and raise our voices. We cannot stand idly by while our freedoms and rights are undermined. It is imperative that we gather in the streets of our beloved city—especially in the gardens of the Palais Royal, the Palais des Tuileries, and near the Bastille prison—to demonstrate our unwavering commitment to defending our ideals.

The King's decision is a direct assault on our aspirations for just and fair governance. We must show the world our strength and determination. Together, we possess the power to reshape our destiny.

Compatriots, join us in this pivotal struggle for justice and the future of our nation. Together, let us proclaim our demand for freedom, equality, and fraternity.

The will of the people cannot be silenced. To action, comrades! Let's march forward! Let's make our voices heard!

Show Your Support: Wear the Cocarde of the Revolution!

Citizens of France! Display your commitment to our noble cause with the tricolor cocarde, symbolizing liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Why Wear the Cocarde?

Show solidarity with your fellow revolutionaries.

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Exclusive Interview with Marquis de La Fayette: A Man of Duty and Liberty

by Jean-Paul Marat

Journalist: Monsieur le Marquis de La Fayette, thank you for granting us this interview. You played a crucial role alongside the Americans in their fight for independence. Could you tell us about your involvement in the Continental Army under General George Washington?

La Fayette: It's a pleasure to speak with you. My commitment to America was driven by ideals of liberty and justice, alongside American patriots like Thomas Jefferson, whose convictions and literary talents greatly influenced the American Revolution. I voluntarily joined the Continental Army to support their just and noble cause.

Journalist: You mentioned Thomas Jefferson. How did his writings and ideas influence your vision of liberty and human rights?

La Fayette: Thomas Jefferson embodies essential principles of individual freedom and inalienable rights. His writings, such as the Declaration of Independence of the United States, not only inspired Americans but also strengthened my conviction in the ability of people to fight for their fundamental rights. His ideas have been a guiding light for me and many others in our shared quest for freedom.

Journalist: What lessons from the American Revolution do you think can be applied to current challenges in France?

La Fayette: The American Revolution showed us that collective will and determination can overthrow oppressors and establish a government based on popular representation. In France, we face similar challenges: an absolute monarchy that no longer meets the needs of its people. I firmly believe that the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity must guide our efforts for genuine and lasting reform.

Journalist: What do you hope to see emerge from these efforts in France?

La Fayette: My hope is that we can establish a just constitution that guarantees the rights of every French citizen. Recent events, such as the Oath of the Tennis Court, demonstrate that the desire for change is strong among the French people. As a representative of the Third Estate, I am committed to supporting these aspirations and defending the rights we consider inalienable.

Journalist: A final message for our readers?

La Fayette: Stay vigilant and united. Our struggle for freedom and justice demands constant engagement and solidarity. Together, we can forge a future where republican ideals shine as a beacon for all nations.

Journalist: Thank you very much, Monsieur le Marquis, for your insightful reflections and dedication to the cause of liberty.

The Cry for Liberty: The Third Estate's Revolt in the Tennis Court

by Marie-François-Denis Thomas

On the momentous day of June 20th, a pivotal chapter in our nation's history unfolded within the Tennis Court at Versailles. Under the resolute leadership of Jean Joseph Mounier, the Third Estate made a daring commitment that continues to resonate deeply with all freedom-loving French citizens.

The Determination of the Third Estate

Confronted with the locked doors of the Estates-General hall—an apparent move by King Louis XVI to stifle the people's voice—the representatives of the Third Estate sought refuge in a tennis court. There, they displayed unwavering resolve, transforming this aristocratic leisure venue into a stage for political resistance.

The Historic Oath

In the presence of 576 deputies, Jean Joseph Mounier proposed an oath that will forever be etched in our history: "We swear never to separate, and to assemble wherever circumstances demand, until the Constitution of the kingdom is established on solid ground." This declaration, met with cheers and solemn pledges, solidified the unity of the people's representatives in their pursuit of a fair and just constitution.

Unity Among the People

The Tennis Court Oath united the members of the Third Estate in a common cause, marking the outset of a collective struggle against the injustices of the old regime. Their pledge not to disband until France had a constitution

worthy of its people stirred a revolutionary spirit and inspired citizens from all walks of life to join the quest for freedom.

The Monarchy's Reaction

Caught off guard by this display of solidarity, Louis XVI attempted to regain control by convening a royal session on June 23rd. However, the events of June 20th had already set an irreversible course in motion. Monarchical authority began to waver in the face of the unwavering determination of the people.

A Beacon of Hope

For the French populace, the Tennis Court Oath symbolized resilience and defiance. It demonstrated that the people's representatives were willing to challenge the status quo to ensure a more just and equitable France. This act of defiance galvanized the masses, fueling the flames of revolution that would soon engulf the entire nation.

The Tennis Court Sermon now serves as a guiding beacon for our nation towards freedom. This event, a testament of courage and unity, charts a new course for France. Together, as citizens of France, we must remain steadfast and resolute in our pursuit of justice and equality.

Step into 1789 with "The Bastille Challenge". This guide helps you set up an escape game where players solve puzzles to uncover crucial secrets and make a daring escape from a hidden Bastille chamber in just minutes.

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Long live the spirit of Revolution!

This educational adventure encourages critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. It's flexible and adaptable, making it perfect for a unique learning experience.

This guide includes:

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- Tips for adaption it to your context,
- Printable clues,
- Newspapers from 1789, and
- Maps of Paris and the Bastille Prison.

