

THE TRIAL OF KING LOUIS XVI!!!!

On August, 1789, the National Convention formed France's first republic. For the first time in France's history, the people making all the decisions had been chosen by the people. On August 27 of the same year, the National Convention decided to record all the new rights every person in France could now enjoy. This document was called the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*, and it sounded the end of King Louis XVI. This document and the actions of the National Convention had totally stripped King Louis of any power. Although many in France still believed in him and were still influenced by him, others openly began to call for his trial and execution.

Fearing for his life and the life of his family, the king, Queen Marie Antoinette, and their children made a run for it. Sneaking out of the castle at the Tuilleries, the royal family made a run for the Austrian border in the middle of the night. Some time early in the morning, they were missed and Marquis de Lafayette and the National Guard were sent after them. Later that afternoon, only a few miles from the border of Austria, the royal family stopped for a picnic lunch. It was here that they were arrested and escorted back to France. They would have made it had they not stopped for lunch!!

The peasants and other members of the Third Estate were outraged!!!! They felt that the king was running to Austria, to join with other émigrés, form an army, invade France, and take away everything the 3rd Estate fought for. The National Convention also saw this as a time to take care of King Louis XVI once and for all. On the day of the King's arrest, Maximillian Robespierre stood in the National Convention and delivered a blistering speech against the king. He called for the king's blood stating that prior to that point, he was totally against violence, but because of the king's callous acts or cowardice against the people of France he should be tried for treason...

Directions:

The king is therefore on trial for treason-or betraying the people of France.

Maximillian Robespierre and other members of the National Convention are called for his execution...is he guilty?

1-Title the page the Trial of King Louis XVI.

Underneath that, create a t-sheet. Label the left side of the T-sheet reasons for being guilty and on the right side of the T-sheet reasons for not being guilty.

2-Next, list as many reasons as you can why the king should be found guilty.

Then, list as many reasons as you can for why he is not guilty-be specific

3-Under the chart write **IN YOUR CHARACTER** an half-page testimony-fully and passionately explaining whether or not you feel King Louis XVI is guilty or not. Furthermore, explain whether or not he should be executed. Should he meet Madame La Guillotine.