The French Revolution – History Y5

Before the French Revolution…

French society was divided into 3 groups ('estates')

1. **Clergy** (religious figures of the Catholic Church)
2. **Nobles** (aristocracy – people born into wealthy, important families)
3. The rest – workers, **peasants**, doctors and lawyers, etc.

The King was not part of the estates as he was deemed *too important* and *powerful*!

Revolution – a time when people **overthrow the power** of those ruling and try to change how people live and work.

Absolute Monarchy – when a King or Queen is in complete control and doesn't need to follow any rules or laws.

The Bastille – a prison in Paris, used by the French Kings.

KEY PEOPLE

King Louis XVI	Crowned King of France in 1744 (an absolute monarch, beheaded in 1793)
Marie Antoinette	Became Queen of France when her husband became King (beheaded in 1793)
Napoleon	Hugely successful military leader who became emperor of France (died in exile on the island of St Helena)
Horatio Nelson	British admiral in the Royal Navy who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Trafalgar, preventing an invasion.
Duke of Wellington	British army general who defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

King Louis XVI crowned	the storming of the Bastille	King Louis and Queen Marie Antoinette beheaded	Napoleon becomes Emperor of France	Battle of Trafalgar	Battle of Waterloo
1774	1789	1793	1804	1805	1815