

Name: _____ Date: _____

The French Revolution

Q1. What was the condition of women in France before the revolution?

Ans. _____

Q2. What does subsistence crisis mean? What led to subsistence crisis in France?

Ans. _____

Q3. What was the 'Tennis Court Oath' and why was it so important?

Ans. _____

The French Revolution

Q1. What was the condition of women in France before the revolution?

Ans. Status of women in France before the revolution

i. Most women of the third estate had to work for a living. They worked as seamstresses or laundresses, sold flowers, fruits and vegetables at the market, or were employed as domestic servants.

ii. Most women did not have access to education or job training. Only daughters of nobles or wealthier members of the third estate could study at a convent.

iii. Working women had also to care for their families. Their wages were lower than those of men.

Q2. What does subsistence crisis mean? What led to subsistence crisis in France?

Ans. Subsistence crisis is an extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered.

The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in the demand for food grains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly. But wages did not keep pace with the rise in prices. So the gap between the poor and the rich widened. Things became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest. This led to a subsistence crisis.

Q3. What was the 'Tennis Court Oath' and why was it so important?

Ans. The representatives of the third estate viewed themselves as spokesmen for the whole French nation. On 20 June they assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles. They declared themselves a National Assembly and swore not to disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.

Importance

The Tennis Court Oath was significant because it showed the growing unrest against Louis XVI and laid the foundation for later events, including: the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and the storming of the Bastille.