Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unit Three: The French Revolution

The scene of the greatest challenge to Absolutism took place in France: in 1789, revolution broke out. All French people had complaints about the way things were, but certainly did NOT agree on the direction that change should take.

The revolution took ten years and shook the entire European continent. It is important because it is one of many chapters of people trying to create a way of life that passes the test of reason. After the Enlightenment, governments were seen as protectors of Human Natural Rights, but very few governments actually did this. People knew change had to occur, but did not know what should replace absolutism, or how to get there. Under these circumstances, the 19th century became what historians call “The Age of Revolutions.”

Unit Three will be studied in five parts …

1. Revolution Threatens the King
2. Reform and Terror
3. Napoleon Forges an Empire
4. Napoleon’s Empire Collapses
5. Congress of Vienna