



Name: _____ Date: _____

What Were the Causes of the French Revolution?

The following scene takes place outside the city of Dijon, France in 1788

Celine : Jacques, my dear husband, come eat your breakfast before the rats steal your stale half a slice of bread.

Jacques: I'm coming, I'm coming. Why are we having such a huge breakfast today? This is twice the size of our normal breakfast.

Celine : Well, tomorrow the royal tax collectors are coming to take 60% of our crops and food supplies back to King Louis XVI So, we might as well eat while we can.

Jacques: You know, if it wasn't for the fact that the royal tax collectors traveled with soldiers who whip, beat, and torture those who don't pay their taxes, I wouldn't pay these taxes.

Celine : Don't talk foolishness. Let's face it, we were born into the Third Estate and we will die in the Third Estate, just like all the other farmers, merchants, artisans, and other poor workers. Only the doctors, lawyers and bankers in the Third Estate have a decent life. (Hears a knock on the door) Who is it?

GreyPoupon: It is your lord and Prince. I am here to collect the rent for this month.

Jacques: My lord, could you give us some extra time to pay the rent. Tomorrow the royal tax collectors will take more than half of our crops and food supplies away.

GreyPoupon: Don't be silly. Times are tough for me also. The princess needs 10 new silk dresses, all 45 of my French poodles need to have their nails trimmed and my sons will all be going into private school soon. So, where is my rent, peasant?

Celine : You miserable creep. How dare you complain about money? Princes, dukes, and all nobles in the Second Estate don't pay one dime in taxes. You people have everything and yet the King only taxes us, those who can't afford to be taxed

GreyPoupon: You disobedient swine!!! You dare to criticize your superiors? The King will hear about this!!!!

Jacques: Well, while your telling that loser Louis XVI, about this, tell him that we are also sick and tired of the First Estate not having to pay any taxes. Those bishops, cardinals, and archbishops own over 50% of all the land in France, yet the King doesn't make them pay one dime in taxes!!

GreyPoupon: Well, why should the First or Second Estate pay any taxes? We're better people than you lowly poor people.

Celine : You're not better people. You were just lucky that you were born into a rich family. You probably could not even pass the Global History Regents.

GreyPoupon: Silence, pigdogs. Give me the rent. NOW!!!

Jacques: I am tired. I am cold. I am hungry. I am poor and under this system I will always be poor. So I say, Death to the King! Death to the First Estate! Death to the Second Estate! Look out, Here comes the revolution!!!

Celine : We refuse to give you any more rent but we will give you this, you rich piece of garbage!!!! (Stabs GreyPoupon in the chest). Let the Revolution start!!

French farmer was named _____

French farmer's wife was named _____

French prince was named _____

1. Which members of society were in the First Estate? _____

2. Which member of society were in the Second Estate? _____

3. Which members of society were in the Third Estate? _____

4. Why would the average French person feel anger towards the First Estate? _____

5. Why didn't Jacques and Celine just refuse to pay the royal tax collectors? _____

6. How do members of the Third Estate feel towards Louis XVI? Do you agree? Why? _____

7. Why did French farmers feel anger towards members of the Second Estate? _____

8. How could this revolution have been avoided? _____

9. Was Celine justified in stabbing GreyPoupon? Why? _____

10. What political, economic, and/or social issues were discussed in this play?
