

## **Executions Student Worksheet**

### **Introduction:**

Violence marked the French Revolution from the outset: after storming the Bastille, the crowd captured the governor of the prison, the Marquis de Launay, then dragged him into the street and cut off his head. This marked the beginning of what became known as the “Great Fear”; throughout the summer of 1789, riots broke out in cities and peasants began to turn against the wealthy landowners in the countryside, destroying their property and threatening them physically as well. The violence ultimately culminated in large numbers of executions—many by guillotine. Nobles provided an early target, but in 1793, after having been convicted of treason, King Louis XVI himself was executed at the *Place de la Revolution* in Paris. His wife, Marie Antoinette, was executed later that year. This lesson will have you explore the significance of the killings, and examine one man’s view of what the death of the Queen meant.

All web links for this lesson can be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>

### **Directions:**

#### **French Revolution execution picture**

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990220005826/http://members.aol.com/agentmess/picts/killing.jpg>

1. Describe the action depicted in the drawing.
2. Who do you think is doing the killing? Who is being killed?
3. From what estate do you think the victim came?
4. What does this picture suggest to you about the events of the French Revolution?

#### **Marie Antoinette: Letter to Her Mother**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1773marieantonette.asp>

5. What does Marie Antoinette say affected her most about her entrance into Paris?
6. Do you think her view of the poor people was realistic, or did she only see what she wanted to see? Explain.
7. Speculate as to what could have caused the people of France to turn from holding the Queen in high regard to killing her about twenty years later.

#### **Edmund Burke: The Death of Marie Antoinette**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1793burke.asp>

8. How do you know that Burke held the Queen in high regard?

9. Why do you think Burke held the Queen in such high regard?

10. Why did Burke feel that “the glory of Europe is extinguished forever”?