

Name _____

The Estates-General: Catalyst for Change

Short Answer Key

1. The three estates that comprised the Estates-General were the First Estate (clergy), the Second Estate (nobility), and the Third Estate (common people, including merchants, artisans, peasants, and the bourgeoisie).
2. The common people of France, represented by the Third Estate, demanded voting by headcount during the Estates-General's deliberations to have a fairer representation and greater influence, as they were the largest estate.
3. On June 20, 1789, the representatives of the Third Estate took the Tennis Court Oath, pledging not to disband until a new constitution was established. This event marked the formation of the National Assembly.
4. The Estates-General transitioned into the National Assembly when the representatives of the Third Estate, frustrated by the deadlock over voting, formed their own assembly to advocate for political change. This transformation signified the common people's desire for equality and a new political order.
5. King Louis XVI convened the Estates-General in an attempt to find a solution to the country's financial crisis. However, his indecisiveness and inability to resolve the crisis contributed to the events that led to the French Revolution.

