

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Impact of the Storming of the Bastille on the French Revolution

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The storming of the Bastille was highly significant in the context of the French Revolution. It symbolized the people's demand for political change and freedom in several ways. First, the Bastille was a notorious symbol of tyranny and oppression, representing the Bourbon monarchy's arbitrary power. Its capture by the common people signified their determination to challenge this oppression and seek political change. Second, the storming of the Bastille led to the seizure of arms and ammunition, empowering the revolutionary forces. Finally, the event inspired others across France to join the revolutionary cause, ultimately leading to the radicalization of the revolution and the push for a republic.
2. In pre-revolutionary France, the Bastille served as a symbol of tyranny and oppression. It was a royal fortress and prison used by the monarchy to detain political prisoners without trial, showcasing the absolute power of the Bourbon monarchy and the lack of civil liberties. However, the storming of the Bastille dramatically changed its symbolism. The event transformed the Bastille into a symbol of resistance, freedom, and the people's power to challenge oppression. It marked the beginning of the end for the Old Regime and its oppressive institutions, making the Bastille an enduring symbol of the French Revolution's quest for liberty and equality.
3. The storming of the Bastille had a profound impact on the course of the French Revolution. Firstly, it inspired revolutionary fervor across France. The successful capture of the Bastille by common Parisians showed that the monarchy's authority could be challenged, encouraging people in other regions to rise against oppressive rule. Secondly, it marked a turning point in the revolution, pushing France toward radical political changes. The event fueled calls for the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic. Additionally, the capture of the Bastille provided the revolutionaries with much-needed arms and ammunition, strengthening their position. Overall, the storming of the Bastille ignited the revolutionary spirit, accelerated the pace of change, and played a crucial role in shaping the French Revolution.
4. Bastille Day is celebrated in France as a national holiday with deep historical and cultural significance. It commemorates the storming of the Bastille, a pivotal event in the French Revolution that symbolizes the values of liberty, equality, and fraternity. For the French people, Bastille Day represents a celebration of their revolutionary heritage and the principles that emerged during the revolution. It is a reminder of the struggle for freedom and the power of the people to challenge oppressive regimes. The holiday also fosters a sense of unity and national pride, as it reflects the enduring ideals that continue to shape the French Republic. Through parades, fireworks, and various festivities, Bastille Day serves as a symbol of French identity and a reaffirmation of the values that define the nation.

