

Name _____

The Tennis Court Oath: A Pivotal Moment in the French Revolution

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The events leading up to the Tennis Court Oath, including the convening of the Estates-General and the tensions over voting procedures, contributed to the oath's significance by highlighting the common people's grievances and their determination to bring about political change. The deadlock over voting procedures and the subsequent formation of the National Assembly marked a turning point in the French Revolution.
2. The Tennis Court Oath was a pivotal moment in the French Revolution. The representatives of the Third Estate, along with sympathetic clergy and nobles, assembled at the Royal Tennis Court, where they took an oath of solidarity. This oath symbolized their unity and determination to demand a new constitution that would limit the power of the monarchy and grant rights to all citizens. The event marked the birth of the National Assembly and was a clear break from the traditional structure of the Estates-General.
3. The Tennis Court Oath had a significant impact on the course of the French Revolution. It symbolized the common people's determination to challenge the old order and demand political change. The National Assembly, formed as a result of the oath, played a crucial role in drafting important documents like the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and the new constitution, which aimed to establish a more equitable and representative government.
4. King Louis XVI initially responded to the demands of the representatives of the Third Estate after the Tennis Court Oath with resistance. However, he eventually allowed voting by headcount and yielded to some of their demands due to mounting pressure and the threat of rebellion. His concessions marked a significant shift in power dynamics and set the stage for further revolutionary developments in France.

