

## What happened during the revolution?



'The Siege of the Bastille', painting by Claude Cholat, 1789 (Musée de la Ville de Paris, Musée Carnavalet).

siege: Belagerung | canon fire: Kanonenfeuer | shooting: Schießerei | to fight: kämpfen | wounded: verwundet | spectators: Zuschauer | ammunition: Munition

### KEY TERMS

#### to concentrate troops

Truppen zusammenziehen

#### to band together

sich zusammenrotten

The citizens of Paris were especially unhappy. They suffered because of high unemployment. Additionally the price of bread was extremely high. The king was afraid of losing control, so he decided **to concentrate troops** in Paris. When this message reached the people in Paris they started **banding together**. On July 14<sup>th</sup> 1789, the people of Paris stormed the Bastille because they believed that weapons and ammunition were stored there. They wanted the commanding officer to hand over the prison to the people, but

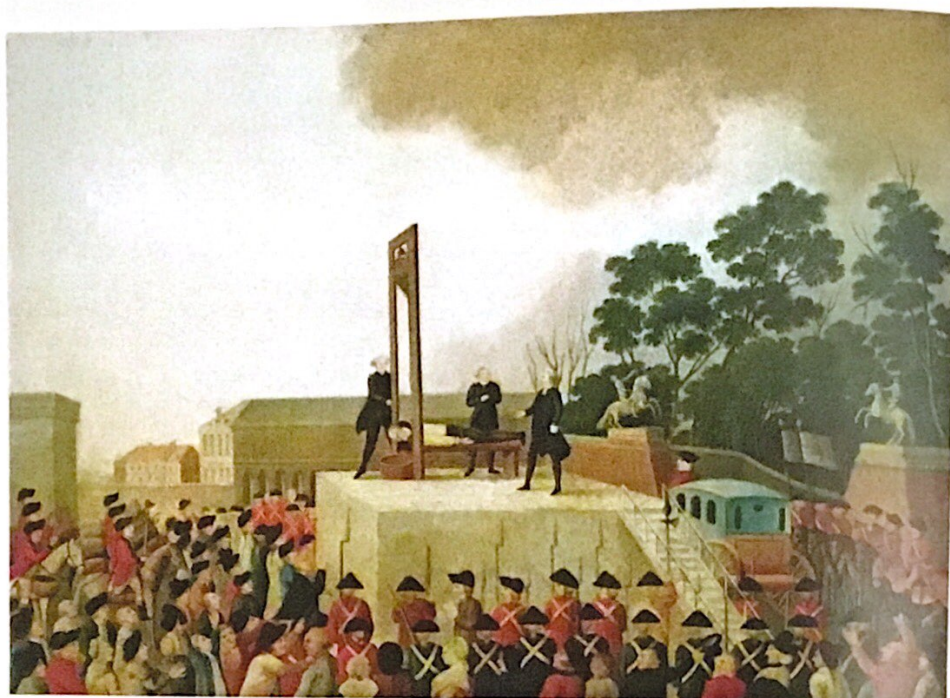
he refused. When the crowd became more threatening, the guards opened fire and killed about one hundred people.

**1** Look at the painting and describe it.

**2** Discuss with a partner why the Bastille was stormed rather than another representative building.

**3** Work on your time bar with the new pieces of information given on this page.

## What happened to the king?



Execution of the King, painting by unknown artist, about 1793.

guillotine: Guillotine | soldier: Soldat | stage: Bühne | uniform: Uniform | to be beheaded: enthauptet werden | to be surrounded by s.th. or s.b.: von etw. oder jmd. umgeben sein | spectator: Zuschauer

### KEY TERMS

**to take s.b. to trial**  
jmd. vor Gericht bringen

**defence**  
Verteidigung

**prosecution**  
Anklage

After having tried to escape from Paris on June 20<sup>th</sup> 1791, the Royal Family were put into prison and the King was **taken to trial**. There the leaders of the revolution discussed what to do with him. After a long debate, he was sentenced to death by 380 votes to 310. In January 1793, Louis XVI was executed and on October 16<sup>th</sup> 1793, his wife, Marie Antoinette, shared his fate.

**1** Imagine you were present during the discussion dealing with the king's fate. Form two groups and write a **defence/prosecution** speech for this trial.

**2** With the help of the toolbox complete the following statements:  
'The execution of the King was ... because ...'  
'The execution of the queen was ...'  
Then compare and discuss the results with your partner.

**3** People from different social and political backgrounds witnessed the king's/queen's execution. They discuss whether it

is right to kill the king/queen. Remember that the king represented God on earth. Therefore not only a much disliked monarch was executed but also God's representative. Choose one role and discuss in groups.

**4** Work on the time bar you have already started including all the information you have on the French Revolution.

### TOOLBOX: Expressing probabilities

**to be possible**  
möglich sein

**to be likely**  
wahrscheinlich sein

**to be certain**  
sicher sein

**to be inevitable**  
unvermeidlich sein

**to be probable**  
wahrscheinlich sein

**to be unlikely**  
unwahrscheinlich sein

**to be unthinkable**  
undenkbar sein

**to be necessary**  
nötig sein