FRENCH SOCIETY

Napoleon tried to make sure that all major groups gained from his rule. For peasants, Napoleon made sure that they could keep their land by eradicating Feudalism. He restored the Catholic Church to its former importance through the Concordat, and the peasants no longer had to pay tithes. For the Nobles, Napoleon offered 'king-like' stability. He created titles for some people, though these new nobles had no special privileges. Napoleon tried to reward talented and hardworking people by setting up the Legion of Honour in 1802. It is still one of the highest honours you can receive in France today.

Some of the things said by Napoleon!

The ignorant class will no longer exercise their influence on making laws or on government.

It is not what is true that counts, but what people think is true.

Public education does not suit women, as they are not called upon to live in public... marriage is their whole estimation.

In France women are considered too highly. They should not be regarded as equal to men. In reality they are nothing more than machines for producing children.

BUIDINGS AND ROADS.

Napoleon ordered the building of new roads, canals and bridges. Huge amounts of money were invested in improving the image of France's capital, Paris. Older buildings were improved, and new buildings were put up. A better network of roads was planned for Paris, and several memorials to the Revolution and to Napoleon himself were erected.

DID YOU KNOW?

Napoleon introduced the Baccalauréat, (BAC) an exam still sat in France today!

THINK! What do these quotes tell us about Napoleon?

L'Arc de Triomphe, Paris - built in 1813 to celebrate Napoleon's victories in wars all over Europe.
Activities

1) Go back through all the information on the worksheets. Write down each underlined word or phrase and its meaning. You might have to ask your teacher for help with some, or think back to your previous work. There are 6 altogether!
2) In what ways did Napoleon reform the education system in France?
3) Which aspects of Napoleon's education system did not change?
4) In what ways were the governments of King Louis XVI (pre-Revolution) and Napoleon different?
5) In what ways were they similar?
6) Read the Napoleonic Code. List the points of the code which you think are:
   a. Fair?
   b. Unfair?
   Give reasons for your choices.
7) How did Napoleon try to restrict individual rights and freedoms?
8) Why do you think Napoleon felt it was so important to control the press?
9) How did Napoleon try to control religion in France?
10) What was the appeal of Napoleon to:
    a. The Peasants?
    b. The Nobility?
11) Read some of the things said by Napoleon (on all of the sheets) What do these extracts tell us about Napoleon’s attitude towards:
    a. His role as Emperor?
    b. Women?
    c. The Media?
    d. The lower classes?
12) How did Napoleon improve France’s cities and towns?

The BIG Question

HOW FAR DID NAPOLEON REALLY REFORM FRANCE?

This is an extended piece of writing, so you should plan your work in the back of your book first. You should organise your answer into five sections, which you can later put into paragraphs. The five areas are: Education, The Government, The Church, Rights and Freedoms and Society. To answer the BIG question, you need to look at how far Napoleon reformed each of the sections. For example, in some areas there had been great change, but in others, there were few differences from the time of King Louis. You can include in your answer quotes and opinions from the man himself to support your own thoughts. Once you have planned what you are going to include in your sections, you need to write a brief introduction to your work, and sum up your arguments with a strong conclusion. Get you teacher to check it, put it all together in the front of your book, and VOILA! One essay!