

Vocabulary

Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary words and definitions below.

absolute monarch a king or queen who has complete or unlimited powers over the government and its people

bourgeoisie the middle class; the upper level of the Third Estate; wealthier city-dwellers such as lawyers, doctors, merchants

conservatives people who want to keep existing conditions and ways; they oppose change in government

depose to force someone to leave a position of authority

drought a period of dry weather; lack of rain

Enlightenment an 18th century movement that encouraged the right to self-expression, equality, and justice

Estates-General lawmaking body in France that had little power and represented three groups: the clergy (the First Estate); the nobles (the Second Estate); the common people (the Third Estate)

guillotine a machine for beheading persons by the fall of a weighted blade that slides between two upright guides