French Revolution Flow Chart

Long-Term Causes of the French Revolution
- Enlightenment
  - Rise of Liberalism
  - American Revolution
- Social and economic inequalities of the Old Regime
- Political Crisis of the 18th Century

Short-Term Causes of the French Revolution
- Weak Leadership of Louis XVI
- Financial Crisis of 1780s
- Famine and Inflation

Spring 1788 Louis XVI tries to tax the first two estates by royal decree

July 1788 Louis XVI is forced to call an Estates General to gain approval for taxes

Fall 1788-Spring 1789 Delegate Elections and Caihes de Doleances

May 1789 Meeting of the Estates General at Versailles…Estate conflict ensues over voting pattern

June 1789 The Bourgeois Revolution Begins with the Third Estate becoming National Assembly and Declares Tennis Court Oath

July 1789 The Parisian Poor storm the Bastille and save the National Assembly

July 1789 The Great Fear spreads through French countryside

August 1789 August Decrees destroys the Old Regime

August 1789 National Assembly adopts the Declaration of the Rights of Man

October 1789 Women of Paris March to Versailles and Riot over Bread Prices
1789-1791 Reform of the National Assembly

- Adoption of Laissez Faire economics
- Reorganization of French provinces
- Nationalization of Church Land and Creation of Assignats
- Civil Constitution of the Clergy

June 1791 Louis XVI tries to flee France

August 1791 Declaration of Pillnitz

September 1791 Louis XVI is forced to agree to a Constitutional Monarchy

October 1791 The New Legislative Assembly is elected by limited popular participation and factionalism immediately ensues among its members

- Conservatives (Pro-monarchy)
- Moderates
- Radicals/Jacobins (Pro-Republic)

April 1792 Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria and Prussia

July 1792 Brunswick Manifesto threatens revolutionaries in Paris

August 1792 The Radical Revolution Begins with the Sans-Culottes storming the Palace of the Tuileries (Now, the Louvre!)

August 1792 Legislative Assembly arrests Louis, abolishes the position of the monarch, and calls for a new representative body

September 1792 Massacres of the imprisoned nobility

September 1792 The National Convention is elected by universal male suffrage and establishes a republic...the Convention is characterized by factionalism among the Jacobins

- Girondins
- Mountain
January 1793 National Convention finds Louis XVI guilty of treason and executes him by guillotine

February 1793 National Convention declares war on Britain, Spain, and Holland

April – June 1793 The Mountain, led by Marat, Danton, and Robespierre, sides with the Sans-Culottes and ousts the Girondins from the National Convention

April – June 1793 Radical takeover by the Mountain in Paris causes provincial revolts among exiled Girondins and pro-monarchy conservatives

April – June 1793 National Convention gives emergency dictator powers to Committee of Public Safety led by Robespierre, who immediately makes reforms to save the republic
  - Levy in Mass
  - Reign of Terror
  - Completes the process of Dechristianization of France begun in 1792

July 1793 Jean-Paul Marat is assassinated by a conservative and the Reign of Terror increases

Spring 1794 French Revolutionary Armies are victorious on all fronts

June 1794 Georges Danton and others threatening the political power of Robespierre are executed by guillotine

July 1794 “Thermidorean Reaction” Begins when National Convention turns against Robespierre and executes him at the guillotine

Winter-Spring 1795 National Convention uses army to suppress revolt of the Parisian poor

August 1795 A new constitution is written that establishes a republic consisting of a two-house legislative assembly and a five-man executive council called a Directory