***The French Revolution “Born in Blood”* Viewing Guide**

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper as you watch the program.

Helpful spelling guide:

Bastille

Charlotte Corday

Georges Danton

Girondins

Guillotine

Jacobins

Jean-Paul Marat

Maximillian Robespierre

Sans-Culottes

Thermidor

Third Estate

Versailles

1. According to the introduction, what were some reasons the French Revolution was so extraordinary?
2. What evidence is given to support the claim that Louis XVI (Louis Capet) had “…few of the characteristics expected of a future king…”?
3. What challenges does France face due to the “years of mismanagement by the monarchy”?
4. How do the following contribute to the coming revolution: a. Enlightenment ideas/ideals; b. American Revolution; c. Marie Antoinette?
5. What were “disconnects” between the monarchy and the French people under Louis XVI’s reign? How does the government play a role in this? How are some aspects out of the government’s control?
6. Describe the Estates General and the three estates. Include population totals/breakdowns and leaders.
7. What happens on June 20th? What is the dispute that causes the Tennis Court Oath? What are the results?
8. Describe the events of early July, 1789. What was the symbolic significance of the Bastille? Practical significance? What are the results of the events of July?
9. What is the *Declaration of the Rights of Man*? What is the significance of this document?
10. This revolutionary movement has a number of new leaders, describe the character and role of the following:
    1. Jean-Paul Marat
    2. The Fearsome Fish Ladies
    3. George Danton (will be a bit later in the program, come back to this figure)
11. What is the real name of “the Incorruptible”? What type of government does he work to achieve and how does he achieve it?
12. Why was the guillotine a “positive” at the beginning of the revolution? How does is turn in to a “negative”?
13. How do the king and queen make the French Revolution more than just a fight within France? How does this make the revolution more complicated? And how do they contribute to their own demise?
14. What is Robespierre’s change of heart? What are the results of this change?
15. Who are the sans-culotte? What was their background and role in the revolution?
16. Why was Paris essentially defenseless in the first week of September, 1972? What does the government do to protect Paris? Were the “September Massacres” successful?
17. Why was the decision made to execute the King?
18. Of the two main parties of the government at this point – the Girondins & the Jacobins – which is more politically radical? Why?
19. Explain the victory of the enemies of the revolution. Was it really a victory? (hint: it has to do with Marat)
20. Describe the fate of Marie-Antoinette.
21. How is France being torn apart by September, 1793? What do Danton and Robespierre do to try to save the revolution? What is it called? How did it work?
22. What is the 12 man council set up at this time? Who is the leader of this committee? Why is this ironic?
23. What is the purpose and process of de-Christianization?
24. Describe the Republic of Virtue.
25. What is The Great Terror? Who is the last victim of this terror? How does this person’s demise come about?
26. According to the program, what were the accomplishments of the French Revolution?

After finishing the program, answer the following:

1. How is the French Revolution a revolution from “Above” (upper classes) AND “Below” (lower classes)?
2. What is the role of violence and terror in the French Revolution?