French Revolution Timeline

May 5, 1789
A meeting of the Estates-General is called by Louis XVI in Versailles to discuss and approve a new tax plan.

June 17, 1789
Three Poitevin curés decide to join the Third Estate, leaving the Chambers of the Clergy. Accepting the proposition of the delegate Abbe Sieyes, the Third Estate proclaims itself "The National Assembly." A few liberal nobles and many clergy join the movement of the Third Estate.

Tennis Court Oath: After being locked out of their meeting room, deputies of the Third Estate assembled on a tennis court and swore not to separate until a constitutional regime was established.

July 7-13, 1789
The National Assembly appoints a committee of thirty members to draft a constitution. The National Assembly proclaims itself the Constituent National Assembly, with full authority and power to decree laws; their primary task is to draw up and adopt a constitution. Necker is dismissed. Demonstrations and speeches take place at the Palais-Royal. The electors of Paris form a standing committee and a citizens' militia.

July 14, 1789
The storming and fall of the Bastille.

August 4, 1789
The end of feudalism and serfdom in France is announced by the National Assembly.

August 26, 1789
The National Assembly adopts the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

October 5, 1789
The women of Paris invade Versailles. Parisians, led by a large number of women, march upon Versailles and force the royal family back to Paris, where they take up residence at the Tuileries. Louis XVI is considered by many a "prisoner" in Paris. The Assembly, still in Versailles, declares, in the spirit of constitutional monarchy, its inseparability from the king.

July 12, 1790
The Civil Constitution of the Clergy is passed.

September 3, 1791
The Constitution of 1791 is adopted.

June 20, 1791
Louis XVI and his family are arrested while trying to flee from France.

April 20, 1792
France declares war on Austria.

September 1792
The First meeting of the National Convention is held.

December 1792
Trial of Louis XVI begins.

January 21, 1793
Louis XVI is sentenced to the guillotine.

August 1793
A National Draft is issued calling for all able-bodied men to enlist in the army.
French Revolution Timeline

**September 1793 to July 1794**
The Reign of Terror sentences 20,000 to 40,000 people to death.

**July 27, 1794**
The National Convention arrests Robespierre.

**July 28, 1794**
Robespierre is beheaded.

**1795**
A new Constitution is adopted.

**1799**
Napoleon Bonaparte overthrows the Directory heralding the end of the French Revolution.