French Revolution Causes

- **Enlightenment Ideas** - Philosophers challenged divine right and wanted more human rights/freedom.
- **The Estates System** - The majority of people were in the 3rd estate, and they resented having to pay taxes when the 1st & 2nd (clergy & nobles) didn't have to.
- **Absolutism** - King Louis XVI overspent money and treated the 3rd estate with disrespect.
- **Food Shortages** - Bad weather resulted in low harvest, which led to starvation & angry commoners.
- **American Revolution** - Supporting the American colonists in the Revolutionary War left France bankrupt & in massive debt.