

Name: _____

Day: _____

THE THREE ESTATES OF FRANCE

The **First Estate** was the clergy, who were people, including priests, who ran both the Catholic church and some aspects of the country. In addition to keeping registers of births, deaths and marriages, the clergy also had the power to levy a 10% tax known as the *tithe*.

The **Second Estate** consisted of the nobility of France, including members of the royal family, except for the King. Members of the Second Estate did not have to pay any taxes. They were also awarded special privileges, such as wearing a sword and hunting. Like the clergy, they also collected taxes from the Third Estate.

The **Third Estate** was made up of everyone else, from peasant farmers to the bourgeoisie (the wealthy business class). While the Second Estate was only 1% of the total population of France, the Third Estate was 97%, and had none of the rights and privileges of the other two estates.

1) What percent of the population belonged to the:

First Estate: _____% Second Estate: _____% Third Estate: _____%

2) What rights did the First Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? _____

_____.

3) What rights did the Second Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? _____

What rights did the First Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? _____

_____.

4) Describe the rights (or lack thereof) of the Third Estate: _____

_____.