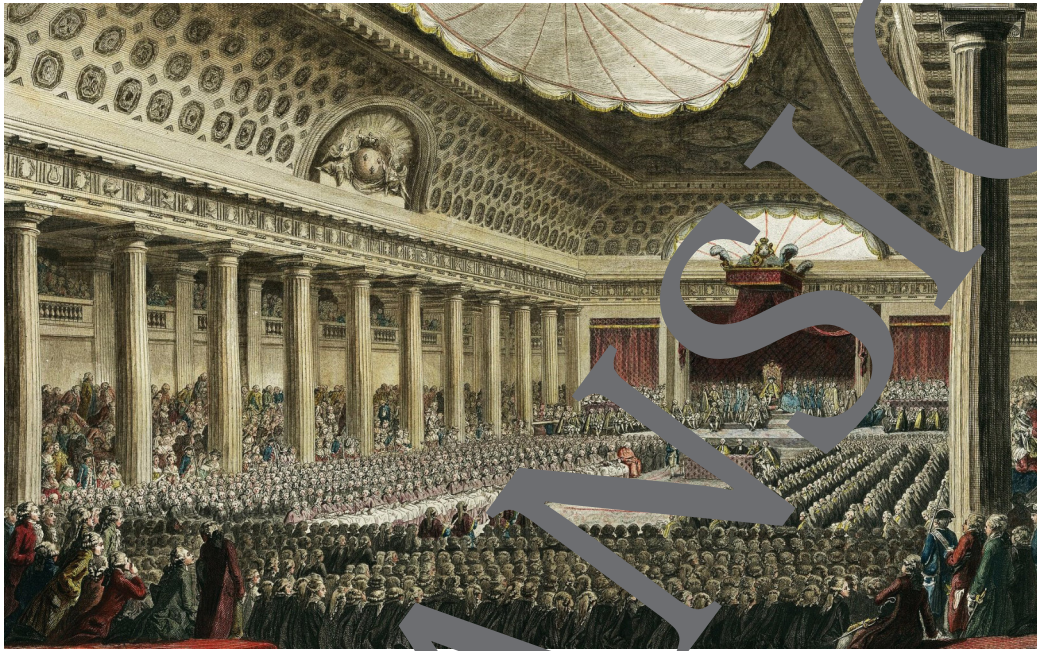


I.E.14

People's revolutions

The assembly of the Estates General in 1789 – A role play

Elena Rother



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Als eine der Ursachen der Französischen Revolution trug die Krise der Ständegesellschaft maßgeblich zu deren Beginn und Verlauf bei. Die Lernenden versetzen sich in die Lage des Dritten Standes, des Adels, des Klerus und des Königs. Sie erarbeiten Ziele und Forderungen der Interessensgruppen und spielen die Versammlung der Generalstände 1789 nach.

KOMPETENZ

Klassenstufe: 7/8

Dauer: 2 Unterrichtsstunden

Kompetenzen: Ursachen der Französischen Revolution kennen und erläutern,
Rolle der Stände beurteilen

Thematische Bereiche: Ursachen der Französischen Revolution, Ständemodell, Versammlung der Generalstände

Materialien: Bilder, Rollenspieltex-te, Quellentexte, Vokabelliste

Auf einen Blick

1./2. Stunde

Thema:	The assembly of the Estates General in 1789
M 1	France before the French Revolution – Analysing a painting
M 2	Role play card A – What does the village of Guyancourt want?
M 3	Role play card B – What does the village of Colmare want?
M 4	Role play card C – What do the women demand?
M 5	Role play card D – What does the nobility demand?
M 6	Role play card E – What does the clergy demand?
M 7	Role play card F – King Louis XIV
M 8	Craft template – “ <i>Cahiers de doléances</i> ” (lists of grievances)
M 9	Craft template – Place cards
M 10	Vocabulary and useful phrases for the representatives
Inhalt:	Die Lernenden bereiten ein Rollenspiel zur Versammlung der Generalstände vor und führen es durch.

Zusatzmaterial

Eine unterrichtsbegleitende PowerPoint-Präsentation mit allen Taskstellungen und Bildmaterialien finden Sie in Ihrem persönlichen Online-Archiv unter www.raabe.de.



M 1

France before the French Revolution – Analysing a painting

In 1817, the French artist Louis Hersent painted a scene from 1788, a year before the start of the French Revolution.

Tasks

1. Describe the picture considering the aspects in the TIP box.
2. Come up with a title that matches the subject.
3. Repeat the estate model for the social order in the Middle Ages and early modern times. Use your knowledge to interpret the painting by Hersent.

My title for the painting:



Picture: Heritage Images / Fine Art Images / akg-images

TIP: Aspects to consider when describing paintings

- **Content:** depicted people and their posture, facial expression and position in relation to each other, clothing, objects, buildings, animals and landscape
- **Image composition:** foreground and background, top and bottom, right and left, centre
- **Colours and shapes:** (frequently) used colours, warm or cold, light or dark colours, colour contrast, shapes, lines and patterns

Useful phrases for describing pictures

In the foreground / background, I can see ...
 In the top / bottom left / right corner ...
 The person is standing / is lying / is looking at / is pointing at ...
 It could / might / may be a ...

Hersent used (...) colours, which create ...
 The atmosphere / environment is gloomy / scary / peaceful / friendly / ...
 What strikes me most is ...
 This picture makes me think of / feel ...

Role play card A – What does the village of Guyancourt want?

M 2

You are residents of the village of Guyancourt. It is in the north of France and is a small town not too far from the capital.

Tasks

1. Read the information text and the source. Enter your demands in your own words in the “*Cahiers de doléances*” (short: *Cahiers*), the list of grievances.
2. Add your own complaints and ideas on how your situation could be improved.
3. Select someone from your group to represent your interests and present your demands at the assembly of the Estates General.

TIP: Work with the vocabulary list and the useful phrases for the representatives



The inhabitants of Guyancourt

There are a few craft businesses in the village, but most of you and your families make a living from farming. You toil in your fields from morning till night – in wind and rain, sun and storm. However, the fields do not belong to you, but to the nobility, from whom you are dependent. Often you are also subject to their jurisdiction when you sue. That cannot be fair! Whether you have even a penny at your disposal depends on your harvest. You only use part of your harvest for yourself. You have to give part of it to the nobility. You sell what is left on the market. In recent years, the harvest has been very poor. The food was often just enough for your families. And then there are the high taxes! You have heard that your king lives the high life in his huge palace in Versailles. He regularly sends his officials to you to collect taxes. You also have to give a tenth of your income to the church. A king is important, after all, someone has to keep the country in order. But what do you need that much money to do so? And why should your little village have to pay for it? More and more inhabitants live in poverty, starving and can no longer afford anything. You have heard that you can send deputies to Versailles for an assembly of estates convened by the king. Fortunately, there is also a lawyer living in the small community who is committed to justice and is so eloquent that he would make a suitable deputy. The village council meets and decides to make the following demands of the deputy:

We demand

1. that all taxes are paid by the three classes without exception, and by each class according to its ability;
2. the same law and justice throughout the kingdom;
5. the complete elimination of all forms of tithes in kind; (...)
8. that property rights be sacred and inviolable;
9. that justice be administered more quickly and with less partiality;
10. that the front duty, of whatever kind, be abolished;
11. that conscription for military service be only in cases of urgent necessity (...)
17. that all priests be obliged to fulfil all their official duties without demanding any payment for them (...)



Translated from Imbert and Paul Hartig: *Die Französische Revolution*. Klett. Stuttgart 1985, pp. 34 f. Image: Rudzhan Nagiev / iStock / Getty Images Plus

M 8

Craft template – “*Cahiers de doléances*” (lists of grievances)

**PLAINTES,
REMONTRANCES
ET DEMANDES**

COMPLAINTS,
RECOMMENDATIONS AND
DEMANDS

From: _____



Our complaints, recommendations and demands:



Image: Rudzhan Nagiev / iStock / Getty Images Plus

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