The reign of Louis XV and Louis XVI
Marie Antoinette & Louis XVI: The First Cause of Revolution
Louis XIV vs Louis XV (1715–1774)
Louis XIV vs Louis XV

- Takes the throne at a young age (4 and 5)
- Spent a lot of energy pursuing women
- Participated in a number of unsuccessful military campaigns
- Loses France’s colonial territories

- France is in decline when he takes power
- Relationship scandals affect his popularity
- Not interested in ruling the country
- Period is famous for furniture

- France is a rising power when he takes power
- Money put into funding the arts
- Persecuted Protestants
- Takes France to a peak of Imperial Power

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Louis XV Reign

- Continuation of Louis XIV
  - Continued wars with other European nations
  - Continued extravagances on himself
  - Poor remained poor

- France did not have the money and resources to build great buildings like Versailles anymore

- Continuity but on a less grand scale
Louis XVI
Taxes when Louis XVI becomes king

- Tax collectors worked for the king and raised the amounts to take a cut
- Nobles and Clergy were exempt from the majority of taxes
- Taxes were not uniform throughout the country
- Tariffs applied to regions which discourages trade
Taxes when Louis XVI becomes king

- Tariffs
- Gabelle – Salt tax (1 livres/ kg)
  - Granaries who bought it paid the tax but raised the price for consumers
- Tithe – 10% to Church
- Property tax – 15%
- Capitation tax – taxes the number of ppl in your family
- Income tax
- Tax on local amenities (bakery, mill, etc.)
- Rent to landlord
How did the people view the King and Queen?

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette: The wrong 2 people at the wrong time?
Read about Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette

- You are a citizen of France and you are writing to your cousin in Quebec (which was taken over by the English). You want to complain to your cousin about the rulership of France.

- Be sure to include criticism about:
  - Taxes
  - Louis XVI’s character
  - Marie Antoinette
    - To be historically accurate, you should focus on blaming Marie Antoinette
"Marie Antoinette as a Serpent"

http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/39/