

CHAPTER
7

Section 2

CONNECTIONS ACROSS TIME AND CULTURES

Comparing Revolutions in America and France

THEMATIC CONNECTION:

REVOLUTION

Because revolutions have occurred so often, historians have tried to identify some common stages that revolutions follow. Study the stages below from Preface to History by Carl Gustavson. After reading examples from the American Revolution, give similar examples from the French Revolution.

STAGE	AMERICAN	FRENCH
<p>1. <i>Writers denounce existing conditions and provide new goals and ideas.</i></p>	<p>Colonial lawyers protested the Stamp Act, and leaders encouraged conflict with British authorities.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Public discontent results in riots and other acts of violence.</i></p>	<p>Colonists engaged in protests and boycotts, including the Boston Tea Party.</p>	
<p>3. <i>The ruling group is frightened into making repeated concessions until power is transferred.</i></p>	<p>British Parliament repealed the Stamp Act; Britain fought the colonists and lost.</p>	
<p>4. <i>The reformers carry out their reforms, but if their measures are drastic, the nation splits into rival groups.</i></p>	<p>The weak national government led to Shays's rebellion.</p>	
<p>5. <i>Radicals seize power from moderates and try to impose their views on the nation.</i></p>	<p>Colonial leaders created a new constitution and a new system of government.</p>	
<p>6. <i>The public tires of the radicals, and moderates regain power.</i></p>	<p>Moderates gained the addition of a Bill of Rights to the Constitution.</p>	

From your answers, what similarities and differences do you see in the American and French revolutions?
