The Reign of Terror

- Aka the Radical Stage
- A ten month time period (Sept 1793-July 1794) where suspected enemies of the state were executed in large numbers both in French cities and in the countryside
Why did it occur?

- Civil war within France
- Wars with neighboring countries such as Austria, Prussia, Spain, England and the Dutch
- Food shortages
- Staggering debt still hurt the country
How many people were killed?

- Anywhere between 30,000-45,000 people.
- A majority of the victims were members of the third estate (over 72% were sans culottes/peasants).
• The Committee of Public Safety

• Originally created by the National Convention to help speed up certain tasks, this 9 member body eventually held all power during the Reign of Terror.

• Controlled the military, trials, and executions during this time period.
Characteristics

- Power hungry
- Paranoid
- Misguided
- Cruel
- Untrustworthy
The guillotine. Also called the "National Razor." Used in more than 16,000 beheadings. Created by Dr. Joseph Guillotine in an attempt to make beheadings more humane.
Other execution methods: Mass drowning's
Other execution methods: Mass shootings