**Peasants:**
- Largest group (80% of the population)
- Half of their income goes to nobles, church, and the king
- Hated the nobles and the clergy, wanted things to change

**Problems:**
- People were inspired by Enlightenment ideas from people like Rousseau, Voltaire, and Comte D'Antraigues
- Third Estate inspired by American Revolution
- Bourgeoisie were alarmed by the problems in the economy:
  1) Heavy taxes
  2) High cost of living
  3) Bad weather caused bad crops so people had no food
- The government got in debt
  - Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette spent a lot of money
  - They borrowed more money to help the American Revolution against Britain

**Louis XVI:**
- Weak leader
- Couldn’t make decisions
- Didn’t listen to his advisors

**Marie Antoinette:**
- People already didn’t like her because she was part of Austria’s royal family
  - Austria was France’s enemy
- She became more unpopular because she was spending so much money while her people were poor and starving
- Spent so much money on extra stuff so people called her *Madame Deficit*

**Estates-General Meeting:**
- Louis had no money so he decided to tax nobles
- Second Estate made him come to a meeting called the Estates-General Meeting so they can vote on it
- May 5, 1789
- First meeting of its kind in 175 years
  - Estates-General Meeting: Meeting of the three estates in which representatives came to discuss and vote