



BASTILLE DAY CLUES

Today, **July 14th**, is one of the largest holidays in France. It is similar to the Independence Day we have in America. French people watch fireworks, throw big parties and dance! There is also a big parade in Paris every year.

July 14th is also known as **Bastille day** [don't pronounce the L]. It is the day when France celebrates its independence from the corrupt King and Queen. Long ago, in 1789, French people stormed a famous prison called Bastille and started the Revolution.

[remember **1 + 7-8-9** three numbers in a row!]

It was not a huge prison, at most it could hold 50 prisoners. But it was an important one. It was considered the symbol of monarchy that was hated by many people.

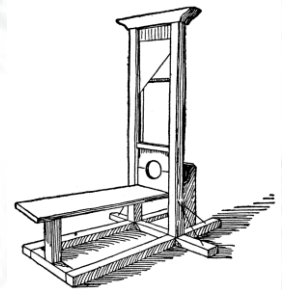
[monarch = king]



If people could take Bastille, they felt they could do anything, even get rid of the King they did not like. And that's exactly what happened.

King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette were so scared of the angry mob, they tried to hide. But it did not help, they were caught and sent to the **guillotine**.

What's guillotine, you ask? Well, it was a quick way to get rid of somebody. Sounds terrible, but King and Queen's heads were cut off! It is no longer practiced today.



July 14th 1789, the day Bastille fell, marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

It took a long time and a difficult series of wars to form the French Republic with the government elected by the people. In the process, France chose a new flag that is the symbol of the country and its freedom.

