Setting the Stage: This lesson focuses on the Reign of Terror, the radical phase of the French Revolution that began in 1793. You are familiar with the general events of the French Revolution and this prior knowledge should help you answer the questions below.

Directions:
1. Read the secondary or primary sources
2. Answer the questions that follow
   a. ANNOTATE as you read for main ideas and supporting details
   b. Underline main ideas
   c. put an (S) next to and highlight supporting details.

Reign of Terror Excerpt

→ Type of source: __________________________________________________________

The Terror Grips France
Foreign armies were not the only enemies of the French Republic. The Jacobins had thousands of enemies within France itself. These included peasants who were horrified by the king’s execution, priests who would not accept government control, and rival leaders who were stirring up rebellion in the provinces. How to contain and control these enemies became a central issue.

Robespierre Assumes Control In the early months of 1793, one Jacobin leader, Maximilian Robespierre, slowly gained power. Robespierre and his supporters set out to build a “republic of virtue” by wiping out every trace of France’s past. Firm believers in reason, they changed the calendar, dividing the year into 12 months of 30 days and renaming each month. This calendar had no Sundays because the radicals considered religion old-fashioned and dangerous. They even closed all churches in Paris, and cities and towns all over France soon did the same.

In July 1793, Robespierre became leader of the Committee of Public Safety. For the next year, Robespierre governed France virtually as a dictator, and the period of his rule became known as the Reign of Terror. The Committee of Public Safety’s chief task was to protect the
Revolution from its enemies. Under Robespierre’s leadership, the committee often had these “enemies” tried in the morning and guillotined in the afternoon. Robespierre justified his use of terror by suggesting that it helped French citizens to remain true to the ideals of the Revolution...

Thousands of unknown people were also sent to their death, often on the flimsiest of charges. For example, an 18-year-old youth was sentenced to die for cutting down a tree that had been planted as a symbol of liberty. Perhaps as many as 40,000 were executed during the Terror. About 85 percent were peasants or members of the urban poor or middle class—for whose benefit the Revolution had been launched.

Reign of Terror Guiding Questions Textbook Excerpt
1. According to the textbook, why did the Jacobins have so many enemies?

2. Robespierre and his supporters created a new calendar. Why would they want to wipe out “every trace of France’s past?”

3. According to the textbook, Robespierre believed terror helped French citizens remain “true to the ideals of the Revolution.” What were the ideals of the French Revolution? (Use what you already know about the French Revolution to answer this question).

Based on the textbook excerpt, do you think the Committee of Public Safety protected the Revolution from its enemies?

Circle one: YES  NO

Explain your answer: What information and examples from the text are important to include in your response? (direct quote or paraphrase-citing information from sources to support your answer!) Give quote/paraphrase & explain why it would help you answer the question.

1._______________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________

2._______________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________
Vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>capital: punishable by death</th>
<th>municipality: local government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>decree: an official order</td>
<td>commodities: things that can be bought or sold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monopoly: total control over something</td>
<td>profiteer: a person who makes or seeks to make an excessive or unfair profit, especially illegally or in a black market.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Document A: Decree Against Profiteers (Modified)

In July 1793, faced with an angry and hungry population, the leaders of the Committee of Public Safety passed the “Decree Against Profiteers.” The law accused “profiteers” in the countryside of hoarding or monopolizing grain in order to raise the price of bread.

Source: Excerpt from Decrees Against Profiteers, passed July 1793

→ Type of source: ________________________________

26 July 1793

1. Monopoly is a capital crime.
2. Those who keep out of circulation essential merchandise or commodities without offering them for sale daily and publicly are declared guilty of monopoly . . .
3. The essential commodities and merchandise are: bread, meat, wine, grain, flour, vegetables, fruit, butter, vinegar, cider, brandy, charcoal, tallow, wood, oil, soda, soap, salt, [etc.]
4. Those who have any of these commodities shall be required to declare them and sell them . . .
5. One week from today, those who have not declared their goods shall be considered monopolists, and, as such, punished with death; their property shall be confiscated, and their commodities or merchandise shall be placed on sale.
6. Those convicted of making false declarations likewise shall be punished with death. Public officials who protect monopolists shall also be punished with death.

Document A: Decree Against Profiteers Primary Source Guiding Questions

1. Why did the Committee of Public Safety pass the Decree Against Profiteers?

2. Why did the Committee of Public Safety consider monopoly to be such a serious crime? (Hint: Think back to the ideals of the French Revolution).

3. What was the punishment for those who did not comply with this law?
Based on the Decree Against Profiteers, do you think the Committee of Public Safety protected the Revolution from its enemies?

Circle one: YES  NO

Explain your answer: What information and examples from the text are important to include in your response? (direct quote or paraphrase-citing information from sources to support your answer!) Give quote/paraphrase & explain why it would help you answer the question.

1. ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________________________

Document B: Law of Suspects (Modified)

By September 1793, the leaders of the Committee of Public Safety face growing counter revolutionary uprisings and mounting fear of foreign invasion. They responded by passing the Law of Suspects, which established revolutionary courts to try anyone suspected of treason against the revolution.

Source: Excerpt of Law of Suspects, passed September 1793

→ Type of source: ________________________________________________________________

Vocabulary

Certificates of patriotism: proof of patriotism required to serve in military

Émigrés: people who leave their own country to settle in another, usually for political reasons

1. Immediately after the publication of the present decree, all suspected person within the territory of the Republic and still at liberty shall be placed in custody.
2. The following are deemed suspected persons:
   1st, those who, by their conduct, associations, talk, or writings have shown themselves to be enemies of liberty
   2nd, those who are unable to justify their means of existence and the performance of their civic duties
   3rd, those to whom certificates of patriotism have been refused
   4th, public officials suspended or dismissed from their positions by the National Convention or by its commissioners and not reinstated
   5th, those former nobles, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons or daughters, brothers or sisters of émigrés, who have not steadily demonstrated their devotion for the Revolution
Document B: Law of Suspects Primary Source Guiding Questions

1. What was the goal of the Law of suspects?

2. List two examples of people who would have been considered suspects. Explain why the committee of Public Safety would have considered them suspects.

3. What might the leaders of the Committee of Public Safety have said to justify this law?

Based on the Law of Suspects, do you think the Committee of Public Safety protected the Revolution from its enemies?

Circle one:  YES  NO

Explain your answer: What information and examples from the text are important to include in your response? (direct quote or paraphrase-citing information from sources to support your answer!) Give quote/paraphrase & explain why it would help you answer the question.

1._______________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

2._______________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Writing a MEL-CON paragraph that answers the question

The Committee of Public Safety was established to protect the Revolution from its enemies. Based on the Reign of Terror Excerpt, Decree Against Profiteers and the Law of Suspects, do you think the Committee of Public Safety protected the Revolution from its enemies?

Hints:
✓ Start with an introductory sentence which restates and answers the question: M (Main Idea)
✓ Then, using evidence from the primary sources, support your claim: E (Example)
✓ Finally, explain how the evidence links to or supports your main idea: L (Link)

You DO NOT NEED TO WRITE A CONCLUSION FOR THIS ACTIVITY!