

**1. Explain the COMPRead Strategy**

**a. What do the letters stand for?**

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**b. How is it used?**

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**c. What are the steps?**

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**2. What will you be doing differently this time when you take the FCAT to make sure you do your best?**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## • Reading Comprehension Assessment

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

### A Tale of Two Revolutions

In the height of the Enlightenment, men influenced by the new political theories of the era launched two of the largest revolutions in history. These two conflicts, on two separate continents, were both initially successful in forming new forms of government. And yet, the two conflicts, though merely a decade apart, had radically different conclusions. How do two wars inspired by more or less the same ideals end up so completely different? Why was the American Revolution largely a success and the French Revolution largely a failure?



Historians have pointed to **myriad** reasons—far too various to be listed here. However, the most frequently cited are worth mentioning. For one, the American Revolution was far removed from the Old World; that is, since it was on a different continent, other European nations did not attempt to interfere with it. However, in the French Revolution, there were immediate cries for war from neighboring nations. Early on, for instance, the ousted king attempted to flee to neighboring Austria and the army waiting there. The newly formed French Republic also warred with Belgium, and a conflict with Britain loomed. Thus, the French had the burden not only of winning a revolution but also defending it from outside. The Americans simply had to win a revolution.

Secondly, the American Revolution seemed to have a better chance for success from the get-go, due to the fact that Americans already saw themselves as something other than British subjects. Thus, there was already a uniquely American character, so, there was not as loud a cry to preserve the British way of life. In France, several thousands of people still supported the king, largely because the king was seen as an essential part of French life. And when the king was first ousted and then killed, some believed that character itself was corrupted. Remember, the Americans did not oust a king or kill him—they merely separated from him.

Finally, there is a general agreement that the French were not as unified as the Americans, who, for the most part, put aside their political differences until after they had already formed a new nation. The French, despite their Tennis Court Oath, could not do so. Infighting led to inner turmoil, civil war, and eventually the Reign of Terror, in which political dissidents were executed in large numbers. Additionally, the French people themselves were not unified. The nation had so much **stratification** that it was impossible to unite all of them—the workers, the peasants, the middle-class, the nobles, the clergy—into one cause. And the attempts to do so under a new religion, the Divine Cult of Reason, certainly did not help. The Americans, remember, never attempted to change the society at large; rather, they merely attempted to change the government.

**Sources:**

Foner, Eric. *Give Us Liberty!* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2012. Book.  
Thompson, J. M. *Robespierre and the French Revolution*. New York: Collier Books, 1962. Book.

1) It can be inferred from paragraph 1 that the author most likely believes that

- A. historians have not come to a conclusion about what separates the French and American Revolutions
- B. the French Revolution could have been just as successful as the American Revolution was
- C. two events based on the same philosophy are generally not that common
- D. the American Revolution is a high point in history, the French Revolution a low point
- E. two events that are similar in one way ought to be similar in other ways

- 2) What function do the questions that end paragraph 1 play in the passage?
- A. They introduce the topic the author of the passage will explore, even though he or she will not answer the questions.
  - B. They introduce the author's opinions on the main topic and summarize his or her main argument.
  - C. They present rhetorical questions that are used only for the purposes of engaging the reader, even though the questions will not be answered.
  - D. They refocus the passage into its original topic after a detour into historical context.
  - E. They present the two questions the author will spend the rest of the passage exploring and then answering.
- 3) As used in paragraph 2, the word myriad most nearly means
- A. an unknowable secret
  - B. an uncountable number
  - C. an unrealistic ideal
  - D. an unusually rare occurrence
  - E. an unimaginably large object
- 4) According to the passage, the Reign of Terror happened because of
- A. social stratification in America
  - B. infighting in the American Revolution
  - C. the decision to kill the king in the French Revolution
  - D. infighting in the French Revolution
  - E. social stratification in France
- 5) According to the author, which of the following best summarizes the most frequently cited explanations historians give for why the French and American Revolutions did not turn out the same way?
- A. locations relative to Europe, social equality in America, and the lack of a unique French identity
  - B. social unity among the Americans, social stratification among the French, and the character of the French and Americans in general
  - C. locations relative to Europe, American and French characters, and political cohesion or lack thereof
  - D. locations relative to Europe, the decision to oust or not oust a king, and a lack of unity amongst all the revolutionaries
  - E. the geography of America and France, the character and identity of American and French people, and the decision to oust or not oust a king
- 6) As used in paragraph 4, the word stratification describes
- A. social inequality
  - B. physical differences
  - C. social cohesion
  - D. physical separations
  - E. societal interactions
- 7) In what ways does the author suggest that the American Revolution was easier to complete than the French Revolution?
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