

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON

Reading Strategy**Recognize Sequence**

Understanding the sequence in which events occur is important when reading history. This skill will help you understand how and if events caused other events.

Because events are not always described in chronological order, look for clues to help you identify when things happened. Dates will signal the exact order in which events took place. Signal words such as *then*, *before*, and *next* also tell you when an event occurred in relation to another event.

You can also ask questions to find if events are related: Did one event cause another? Did two events happen at the same time? A timeline is a tool you can use to understand a sequence of events.

Read the following paragraph about Napoleon's rise to power:

Success fueled Napoleon's ambition. By 1799, he moved from victorious general to political leader. In that year, he helped overthrow the weak Directory and set up a three-man governing board known as the Consulate. In 1800, he forced Spain to return Louisiana Territory to France. In 1802, Napoleon had himself named consul for life. Two years later, Napoleon had acquired enough power to assume the title Emperor of the French.

Based on the information in the paragraph above, you could create this timeline showing Napoleon's rise to power.

1799 Overthrew Directory and set up Consulate
1800 Forced Spain to return Louisiana Territory to France
1802 Named himself consul for life
1804 Assumed the title Emperor of the French

Directions: Reread Section 1, *On the Eve of Revolution*. On a separate sheet of paper, list, in order, the dates and names of important events that led to the French Revolution. Then, answer the following questions.

Hint: As you read, look for dates. Dates will help you place events in sequence. For each date you should have at least one matching event.

1. What is important about the year 1789?
2. What did Richelieu and Louis XIV give to the nobles in the 1600s that contributed to the French Revolution?
3. What happened between 1715 and 1774 that led to the political crisis of 1789?