American Revolution v. French Revolution

FOUNDATION: UNIT II. What Are Human Rights and Where Do They Come From?
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OBJECTIVES
1. Students will analyze the American and French Revolutions’ outcomes
2. Students will develop a rationale as to why the French Revolution resulted in the Reign of Terror, Napoleon, and a return to a monarchy while the American Revolution resulted in a constitutional/representative democracy government.

MATERIALS
- Poster paper and pens.
- Websites for research:
  - US Declaration of Independence
    http://www.unl.edu/HumanR/teach/00/0000/media/DeclarationOfIndependence.pdf
    http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration.html
  - US Constitution
    http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution.html
  - Oath of the Tennis Court
    http://www.ackland.org/art/exhibitions/reasonfantasy/ltwa3.htm
  - Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
    http://www.hrcr.org/docs/frenchdec.html
  - French Constitution of 1791
    http://sourcebook.fsc.edu/history/constitutionof1791.html

Day One:
I. Divide class into five groups. Instructor will assign groups the following areas of research:
   a. background of American Revolution
   b. background of French Revolution
   c. type of revolutionary government in America
   d. type of revolutionary government in France
   e. demographics of each country during the Revolutionary period

II. Students will research the topic and record important information.

Day Two:
III. Each group will develop a chart with the main points of its research.
LESSON PLAN

Day Three and Four:

IV. Each group will present their findings. Charts should be posted.

V. Teacher will lead class discussion on similarities and differences between the two revolutions, focusing on demographics, historical backdrop, and government forms by each country following the revolutions.

VI. Closure: Class will develop a class statement as to why the outcomes of the two revolutions were so different.