Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleons' Rise to Powers

- Born 1764 on the Mediterranean Island of Corsica
- Was five feet three inches in height
- Attended military school from ages 9 to 16 and became a lieutenant in the artillery
- When the Revolution broke out Napoleon joined the army of the government
- October 1795 - Napoleon became a hero by protecting the National Convention from a mob
- The Directory in 1796 appointed Napoleon to lead the French army against Austria
- Napoleon was victorious against the Austrians
- Napoleon attempted to take on the British in Egypt in 1799 but was repelled, and Admiral Nelson of the British naval fleet defeated the French naval forces in Egypt

Napoleon Seizes Power

- In 1799 Napoleon returned from Egypt
- November 1799 - Napoleon's troops surround the National Legislature and formed a new government, replacing the Directory
- The new government was composed of three consuls, one of whom was Napoleon
- Napoleon took the seat of the first consul and seized power in a successful *coup d' etat*
- Britain, Austria, and Prussia were determined to drive Napoleon from power
- In 1800 a plebiscite or vote of the people approved a new constitution and gave all real power to the first consul, Napoleon
- In 1804 Napoleon decided to make himself emperor
- On December 2, 1804 in Norte Dame Cathedral in Paris, Napoleon took the crown from the Pope and placed it on his own head
- With this gesture Napoleon signaled that he was more powerful that the church which had traditionally crowned the rulers of France

Military Accomplishments and Empire

- Napoleon sold Louisiana Territory in North America to the United States to gain money and to punish the British
- He had annexed the Netherlands, parts of Italy, and controlled Switzerland
- Britain, Russia, Austria, and Sweden joined forces to stop Napoleon's expansion
- Napoleon crushed the opposition at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805, where Napoleon heaped praise upon his troops for the historic victory
- Austria, Russia, and Prussia signed peace treaties
- The only undefeated enemy was Britain
- Napoleon's only major loss came at the Battle of Trafalgar, where British Admiral Horatio Nelson defeated the French fleet on October 21, 1805
- By 1812 Napoleon either controlled or had major influence in most of Europe
- He used puppets in other countries to control them and even some members of his family
- He held this largest extent of the Empire together from 1807 – 1812

EUROPE, 1810

NAPOLEON'S FAMILY SYSTEM

LEGEND
- Ruled by Napoleon.
- Ruled by Napoleon's brother or stepson.
- Ruled by Napoleon's brother-in-law, nephew or father-in-law or stepson's father-in-law.
- Napoleonic satellite state.

Napoleon's Fall From Power

- Napoleon's desire to crush Britain forced him into serious mistakes
- He started the Continental System or blockade of Britain and it was a failure
- Britain countered with their own blockade of France that was more effective due to the superiority of the British navy
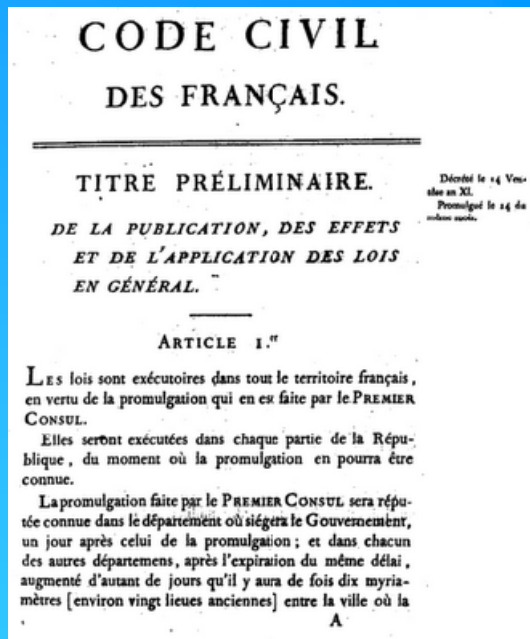
Napoleon's Fall From Power

- The Peninsula War to Portugal started a guerilla uprising against French troops in Spain
- The Spanish guerillas inflicted huge casualties on Napoleon's troops in Spain, killing 300,000
- The invasion of Russia in 1812 was Napoleon's most disastrous mistake
- Of the 420,000 French soldiers who marched into Russia in June, 1812 only 10,000, survived when Napoleon began his retreat from Moscow in September, 1812
- Napoleons defeat raised hopes in Britain, Russia, Prussia and Sweden that he could be defeated
- Napoleon reorganized and reequipped his armies and faced the allied opposition at Leipzig, Germany, October, 16 -19, 1813
- Napoleon was defeated at Leipzig and the Allied forces rushed towards Paris

Napoleon's Fall From Power

MARK CHURMS
THE ART OF HISTORY

- On April 13, 1814 Napoleon ratified the Treat of Fontainebleau, and the terms of surrender and was banished or exiled to the island of Elba
- A new king assumed the throne, Louis XVIII but he was very unpopular
- Napoleon escaped from Elba and landed in France on March 1, 1815
- Napoleon quickly seized power and was again the Emperor of France
- The Allies led by the Duke of Wellington prepared for battle near the town of Waterloo, Belgium
- On June 18, 1815 the Battle of Waterloo began and days later Napoleon was defeated by the Allies
- Napoleon was shipped to St Helena, a remote island in the South Atlantic in exile until his death in 1821

Napoleon's Accomplishments

- He supported many of the changes of the French Revolution
- He put the French economy on solid footing by setting up an efficient tax collection system and a national banking system
- He overhauled the government to end corruption and improve efficiency
- He set up *Lycees* or government-run public schools
- He restored the position of the Catholic Church in France
- He introduced a comprehensive set of laws known as the Napoleonic Code, giving France a uniform set of laws
- He was greatly loved and admired by the French people