

Q) What steps did the French revolutionaries take to create a sense of collective identity among the French people?

Ans The revolutionaries proclaimed that it was the people who would henceforth constitute the nation and shape its destiny. The French Revolutionaries introduced various measures and practices that would create a sense of collective identity among the French people are -

- (i) The idea of la patrie (the fatherland) and le citoyen (the citizen) emphasised the nation of a united community enjoying equal rights under a constitution.
- (ii) A new French flag, the tricolour was chosen to replace the former of Royal standard.
- (iii) The Estates general was elected by the body of active citizens and renamed the National Assembly.
- (iv) New ^{fr}hymns were composed, oaths taken and martyrs commemorated all in the name of the nation.
- (v) A centralised administrative system was put in place and it formulated uniform laws for all citizens within its territory.
- (vi) Internal customs dues were abolished and a uniform system

of weights and measures was adopted.

(vii) Regional 'dialects' - (a local form of a language) were discouraged, as it was spoken in french and written in Paris became the common languages of the nation.

→ French armies began to carry the idea of nationalism abroad.