In 1804, the Napoleonic Code was introduced. It established a clear set of laws that were applicable to all members of French society.

Directions: Read the excerpts from the Napoleonic Code, and answer the questions that follow.

### Napoleonic Code

The civil code has fulfilled the expectations of the public; all citizens are acquainted with it; it serves as their guide in their various transactions, and is everywhere lauded as a benefaction.

- The exercise of civil rights is independent of the quality of citizen, which is only acquired and preserved conformably to the constitutional law.
- Every Frenchman shall enjoy civil rights.
- The husband owes protection to his wife, the wife obedience to her husband.
- The wife is obliged to live with her husband, and to follow him to every place where he may judge it convenient to reside: the husband is obliged to receive her, and to furnish her with every necessity for the wants of life, according to his means and station.
- After the first interrogatory, the court shall, if there be ground, appoint a provisional administrator, to take care of the person and goods of the defendant.

### Questions:

1. **What were some of the laws that were passed under the Napoleonic Code?**

2. **Do you think that Napoleon was influenced by the Enlightenment? Why/Why not?**

3. **How did women’s rights change?**
NAPOLEON'S REFORMS:

Reforms in Education:

Napoleon built many new schools for boys age 10 to 16. He recognized the importance of education in producing citizens capable of filling positions in his bureaucracy and military.

“Of all our institutions public education is the most important. It is essential that the morals and political ideas of the generation which is now growing up should no longer be dependent upon the news of the day or the circumstances of the moment. Above all we must secure unity: we must be able to cast a whole generation in the same mould. New schools are being opened, and inspectors have been appointed to see that the instruction does not degenerate into vain and sterile examinations. The lycées and the secondary schools are filling with youth eager for instruction. The polytechnic school is peopling our arsenals, ports, and factories with useful citizens. Prizes have been established in various branches of science, letters, and arts, and in the period of ten years fixed by his Majesty for the award of these prizes there can be no doubt that French genius will produce works of distinction.”

-Napoleon

1. How did Napoleon reform education? How did he feel about education?

Religious Reforms:

Napoleon entered into an agreement with the Catholic Church called the Concordat of 1801.

“The people must have religion, and religion must be in the hands of the government. Religion has resumed its sway, but exhibits itself only in acts of humanity. Adhering to a wise policy of toleration, the ministers of different sects who worship the same God do themselves honor by their mutual respect; and their rivalry confines itself to emulation in virtue. Such is our situation at home.”

-Napoleon

1. How did Napoleon reform religion within France?

2. How does this quote represent his feelings about religion?

Other Reforms:

“The emperor’s decrees have reestablished commerce on the left bank of the Rhine. Our manufacturers are improving, although the mercenaries subsidized by the British government vaunt, in their empty declamations, her foreign trade and her precarious resources scattered about the seas and in the Indies, while they describe our shops as deserted and our artisans as dying of hunger. In spite of this, our industries are striking root in our own soil and are driving English commerce far from our shores.”

-Napoleon

1. What other reforms were made under Napoleon?