

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

THE EDICT OF NANTES

In 1598, Henry IV of France issued an edict, or proclamation, at the town of Nantes. The edict granted limited religious toleration to the Protestants of his country. The following are excerpts from that document.

III. We ordain that the Catholic, Apostolic and Roman faith be restored and re-established in all those districts and places of this our Realm. . . in which its exercise has been interrupted, there to be freely and peaceably exercised. . . .

VI. And to leave no occasion for trouble or difference among our subjects: We permit those of the so-called Reformed Religion to live and abide in all the towns and districts of this our Realm. . . free from inquisition (**arrest and trial**), molestation (**being excessively bothered**) or compulsion (**forced**) to do anything in the way of Religion, against their conscience (**beliefs**). . . provided that they observe the provisions of this Edict. . . .

XIII. We most expressly forbid to those of this religion the practice thereof, in respect of ministry, organization, discipline or the public instruction of children, or in any respect, in our realm and dominion (**territory ruled by Henry IV**), save in the places permitted and granted by this edict.

XIV. The practice of this religion is forbidden in our court and suite, in our domains beyond the mountains, in our city of Paris, or within five leagues (**about 3 miles**) thereof.

XVIII. We forbid all our subjects, of whatever rank or condition, to take children of this religion, by force or persuasion, to be baptized or confirmed in the Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church; the same being forbidden to those of the so-called Reformed Religion, under penalty of exceptionally severe punishment.

XXI. Books concerning this religion are not to be printed and exposed for sale save (**except**) in towns and districts where the public practice of the said (**this**) religion is allowed.

XXII. No distinction is to be made with regard to this religion, in the reception of pupils for education in universities, colleges and schools, nor in the reception of the sick and needy into hospitals, almshouses (**like homeless shelters**) or public charities.

XXVII. Members of this religion are capable of holding any office or position in this Realm.

Henry IV entering Paris



After reading the document on the front, answer the following questions (You will also need to use your textbook and/or your notes).

1. What family was Henry IV a part of? What were their religious beliefs?
2. Why were the religious beliefs of Henry IV an issue when he became king?
3. The Edict of Nantes established what faith as the official state religion? Copy the statement in the Edict that proves this.
4. Can the members of the 'Reformed Religion' live where they please? Are there restrictions to their preaching and other religious practices? If so, what?
5. Why would the 'Reformed Religion' be forbidden in the capital city of Paris?
6. Give three examples of religious toleration found within this excerpt of the Edict of Nantes.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
7. Why would Henry IV give up his religious beliefs to become king of France? (He is noted as saying "Paris is worth a mass.")
8. Describe the event depicted on the engraving without referring to the caption given. (Think about the Edict)
9. Why was the Edict of Nantes considered a major victory for Protestantism, despite the fact that it failed to completely free Protestant worshipers?