**NAPOLEON**

**Look up the word destiny either on your phone or using a laptop. Define it in your own words in your notes.**

**How does each of the following represent a different view of destiny?**

**Poem 1**

The longest journey

Is the journey inwards

Of him who has chosen his destiny

*Dag Hammarskjold*

**Poem 2**

Sow a habit, and you reap a character.

Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.

*Anonymous*

**Poem 3**

Tis all a checkerboard of nights and days

Where destiny with men for pieces plays

*Edward Fitzgerald*

**Activity: What Influences Me**

Directions: What factors have influenced you most? This activity will help you create a visual representation of these influences. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a small, centered circle. Label it "me." Then draw at least 6 circles of increasing size around the central "me" circle (like a target).

Place your most important influences in the inner circles, working outward to the periphery. You may place more than one thing in any of the radiating circles.

Here is a list of things you might consider:

* Parents or guardians
* Grandparents, siblings and other relatives
* Your neighborhood
* Religion
* Teacher or mentor
* Hero in sports, the arts, politics, etc.
* Rock singer or group, a movie or TV program
* Special talent you have
* Hardship or setback you or your family have faced
* Book or author
* Living in the United States
* Your ties to another country
* Ideas that have influenced you
* Friends
* Other influences you feel are important.

**Activity: What influenced me**

**Segment 1: Napoleon's upbringing on Corsica, his mother and father, the move to France (approximately the first 13 minutes).**

**Questions:**

1. Historians have argued over the importance of Napoleon's Corsican heritage. What do you feel it explains about Napoleon?
2. Napoleon so hated having his native country conquered by the French, yet in the name of France he went on to be the greatest conqueror of other European countries the world had ever seen. How do you explain this paradox?
3. Napoleon loved his mother and disliked his father. Does this necessarily mean that she influenced him more? How did each parent influence Napoleon? What two sides of Napoleon can we see through the effect of each parent?
4. Do you think Napoleon's family did the right thing by deserting Corsica for France?

**Segment 2: The family's move to France through Napoleon's training at the Ecole Militaire (from approximately 13 to 20 minutes into the film. This segment begins with the image of trees in winter).**

**Questions:**

1. Napoleon is sent off to school at Brienne at the age of 9. It was five years before he saw his parents again. How would he have felt in this situation? How do you think it might have affected Napoleon's character and personality?
2. List all the factors that made Napoleon an "outsider" at both Brienne and the Ecole Militaire. In what way(s) can you identify with Napoleon's feelings in this role?
3. Why, under the Ancien Regime was there no possibility for Napoleon to reach the top ranks of his profession? What is it like to have a dream which seems impossible to fulfill because of society's strictures?
4. What about Napoleon's experiences at this time, as well as his reading and education, might have made him sympathetic to the ideals of the Revolution?
5. Isolated and withdrawn, Napoleon does not seem to be a "leader" of his classmates. What about his situation might have been preparing him for leadership nonetheless?

**Segment 3: The outbreak of the Revolution, Napoleon's return to Corsica, exile and return to France, the Battle of Toulon, promotion to full General (from approximately 20 minutes to 38 minutes into the film. This segment begins with fighting scenes and booming cannon).**

**Questions:**

**Watch Segment 3 with this overriding question in mind: Does Napoleon support the ideals of the French Revolution or is he merely an opportunist, using events to further his own career?**

1. In what way was Napoleon forced to choose between being French and being a Corsican? What were some of the penalties he had to pay?
2. Why does the Battle of Toulon bring Napoleon to the attention of the French public for the first time?
3. How do you feel about the rising of Vendemiaire when Napoleon fires cannon into a mob that wishes to restore the monarchy in Paris? Were his actions justified or not? What do they tell us about Napoleon?
4. Dorothy Carrington, one of the historians in this segment says, "Ambition swallowed up his childhood hopes and failures." What does she mean by this statement? Can you imagine something similar happening to you? How might Napoleon's fierce ambition and his sense of his "destiny" relate?

**Segment 4: Napoleon falls in love with Josephine (from approximately 38 minutes to 44 minutes into the video. This segment begins with gentle scenes of Paris, a portrait of Napoleon and harp music).**

**Questions:**

1. Do you believe two people can be "destined" for one another. What does it show about Napoleon's view of his life that he inscribed Josephine's wedding gift with the words "To Destiny." What do you think he meant by this and why did he write it to her?
2. What Napoleon and Josephine share in common (character traits, background, ambitions, etc.).
3. What Napoleon gains through an alliance with Josephine.
4. What Josephine gains through an alliance with Napoleon.

**Segment 5: Napoleon wins major battles against Austria and her ally, ending with the crossing of Lodi Bridge (from 44 minutes into the film until the end. This segment begins with images of the mountains).**

**Questions:**

1. What are some of the military strategies for which Napoleon would become famous? In what ways do Napoleon's tactics mark the end of the rules of warfare as played by the Ancien Regime, and usher in modern warfare?
2. What are some of the ways that Napoleon inspires loyalty in his troops? What makes him a charismatic general?
3. Is the Napoleon we see at Lodi Bridge the same Napoleon we have known up until now, or has a new side of the man emerged at this point?
4. Why do you think that Napoleon says that at Lodi Bridge "I foresaw what I might be?" How or why has he become a man of Destiny?

**Activity Sheet 2: What Influenced Napoleon?**

Directions: What factors influenced Napoleon the most? This activity will help you create a visual representation of these influences. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a small, centered circle. Label it "Napoleon." Then draw at least 6 circles of increasing size around the central "Napoleon" circle (like a target).

Place the most important influences in the inner circles, working outward to the periphery. You may place more than one thing in any of the radiating circles.

**Group Assignment:**

**After viewing your assigned segment of the video compare notes with your group members**

**How many steps in Napoleon’s rise did you note in your segment?**

**Your group must produce 3 index cards for each step**

1. A factual index card giving concise details of the step and events leading up to it.
2. A bold graphic to represent the step
3. An analysis card which explains what moved Napoleon up a step

**Consider the following as you do the assignment: Did Napoleon advance because of….**

* His birth or station in life
* His talents
* Chance or luck
* His strategic use of historical events
* His connections to important people
* His own ambition

**Examples of cards:**

**An example of a step might be as follows:**

**Card 1:**

Napoleon is promoted from acting Lieutenant-Colonel to Brigadier-General after the Battle of Toulon (1793).

Toulon, an important naval base in France, had welcomed the British into their city, turning their backs on the leaders of the French Revolution. Napoleon was sent to help wrest the city from the British after the artillery captain was wounded. There Napoleon devised a plan to seize the heights from which the French could bombard the British. He convinced his superiors that the plan would work, and it did. In the battle Napoleon was wounded in the thigh by an English bayonette.

**Card 2:**

Picture of Napoleon with a bayonet thrust in his thigh, or a map of the Toulon harbor.

**Card 3:**

Napoleon was promoted after this battle for several reasons. Luck played a role because he was called to fill in for someone else who was injured. However, Napoleon seized the opportunity fate gave him and demonstrated both his good strategic thinking and his own courage in the battlefield. His rapid promotion was aided by the fact that many of the French aristocrats in the army had fled France, making way for younger and less well-connected men to advance.

**Activity:**

**Resource for activity**: <http://www.pbs.org/empires/napoleon/n_war/campaign/page_2.html>

Write an illustrated diary entry for a French soldier who met Napoleon at Lodi. Get information and illustrations for your diary from the "Campaigns and Battles" section of the PBS Napoleon Web Site listed above and any other site you think is relevant. The entry must be in your own words!