



# Age of Napoleon

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 15 minutes

## Activity

Learn about the rise and fall of the French empire during the reign of Napoleon.

## Standards

**C3: D2.His.1.9-12.** Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place, as well as broader historical contexts.  
**C3: D2.His.3.9-12.** Use questions generated to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.

## Learning Outcomes

- Students will compare and contrast France's territory before, during, and after the Age of Napoleon.
- Students will identify and explain some of Napoleon's successes and defeats prior to the Congress of Vienna.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry13>

## Ask

### What was the geographic extent of Napoleonic France?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- Read aloud: "The Napoleonic era began in 1799 with Napoleon Bonaparte's coup d'état of the French Directory. In 1804, he was proclaimed emperor."
- With the Details button depressed, click the button Legend. Explore the legend to interpret the map.
- ? Describe the expansion of France during Napoleon's reign; does anything surprise you? [*France expanded in all directions.*]
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Napoleonic France.

## Acquire

### How was Napoleon able to expand and maintain his empire?

- With the Details button depressed, click the button, (Show) Contents.
- Check the box to the left of the layer name, Important Battle Sites.
- Uncheck the layer, Map Notes.
- ? What does this layer tell you about Napoleon? [*He was a military leader, and he gained territory through military success.*]
- Filter the layer, Napoleonic France. Set Ruler Is Family. *See Filter help on page 2.*
- ? What are some of the territories ruled by Napoleon's family? [*Spain, Austria, Confederation of the Rhine*]
- ? Why do you think he appointed family members to positions of power? [*Loyalty*]
- Remove the filter.

## Explore

### Why did Napoleon invade Russia?

- Turn on the layer, Map Notes.
- Turn on the layer, Continental System.
- Open and read the map note located off the coast of Great Britain.
- ? Why was trade important to Britain's economy? [*As an island nation, it needs places to sell goods.*]
- ? Why was the embargo difficult to maintain? [*Many ports, miles of coastline, hurts trade for countries.*]
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Invasion of Russia.
- Open and read the map note over the border of Russia.

## Analyze

### What effect did Napoleon's invasion have on Napoleon?

- Turn on the layers, Russian Invasion. View the legend to understand this layer.
- Click each line to view bar graphs of Napoleon's troop numbers.
- ? How many troops did Napoleon start with? What happened to his Army as it advances to Moscow? *[400,000; large reduction in forces]*
- Open and read the map note east of Moscow.
- ? Why do you think it was a mistake to stay in Moscow until October? *[Winter]*
- Click the last retreat line near the border of Russia.
- ? How many troops left Russia in December 1812? *[10,000]*
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Elba.
- Go to the Waterloo bookmark, and open and read the map note.
- ? How many countries fought to defeat Napoleon at Waterloo? *[6]*

## Act

### What was the lasting impact of Napoleonic France?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Congress Of Vienna.
- Turn on and off the layer, Europe 1815. Turn off other layers as needed for visibility.
- ? How does the map of Europe change in 1815? *[France loses a lot of land; new countries]*
- Open and read the map note over Vienna.
- ? What were two goals of the Congress of Vienna? *[Balance of power; returning monarchs to power]*

### BOOKMARKS

- Click the button, Bookmarks.
- Click a bookmark name to zoom to a map location and scale.

### SET FILTER PARAMETERS

- The Filter is only available for certain map layers.
- In the Contents pane, click a layer name and click the Filter button beneath.
- Set the Filter parameters.
- When finished, be sure to remove filters.

## Next Steps

**DID YOU KNOW?** ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

**THEN TRY THIS...**

- Add a layer of present European boundaries and have students use the Summarize Within analysis tool to find out how many present-day territories were controlled by Napoleon.
- Have students create a Map Journal story map highlighting five to seven key events during the Age of Napoleon.
- Search for the island of St. Helena. Use the Measure tool to show how remote and small the island is.



### TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History: Human Journey by Holt — Chapter 12*
- *World History by Pearson — Chapter 8*
- *World History by Glencoe — Chapter 5*