

At the same time, as that of the Russian invasion, the French forces were engaged in the *Peninsular War* (1808–1814) which resulted in the Spanish and the Portuguese (with assistance from the British) driving out the French from the Iberian Peninsula. This loss was followed in 1813 by the **Battle of Liepzig** also known as the **Battle of the Nations** in which Napoleon's forces were defeated by a coalition that included Austria, Prussia, Russia and Sweden. Napoleon then retreated to France and in March 1814, the coalition forces captured Paris.



Exile to Elba

(In April 1814, Napoleon was forced to abdicate the throne. He was exiled to Elba, a Mediterranean island off the coast of Italy.)

Hundred Days Campaign and the Battle of Waterloo

In February 1815, after less than a year in exile, **Napoleon escaped Elba** and sailed to the French mainland with a group of more than 1000 supporters. On March 20th, he returned



The Battle of Waterloo

to Paris, where he was welcomed by cheering crowds. (The new King Louis XVIII fled, and Napoleon began what came to be known as his **Hundred Days Campaign**.)

On Napoleon's return to France a coalition of allies—Austrians, British, Prussians and Russians—who considered Napoleon as a threat and their enemy, began to prepare for war.



The Battle of Waterloo

Napoleon raised a new army and planned to strike and defeat the allied forces one by one before they could launch an unified attack against him.

In June 1815, his forces invaded Belgium, where the British and Prussian troops were stationed.

On 16th June Napoleon's troops defeated the Prussians at the Battle of Ligny. However, two days later, on 18th June, 1815, at (the Battle of Waterloo) the French were crushed by the British. On 22nd June, 1815 Napoleon was once again forced to abdicate.

Napoleon's Final Years

(In October 1815, Napoleon was exiled to the remote,



Saint Helena: site of Napoleon's captivity

British island of Saint Helena, in the South Atlantic Ocean.)

(He died there on 5 May 1821 at the age of 51. (Napoleon



Exile on Saint Helena

was buried on the island despite his request to be laid to



rest on the banks of the Seine, among the French people, who loved him so much.)

Napoleon was typical of the enlightenment and ready to perceive situations in a different light. He claimed that he was the **true son of the French Revolution**. Napoleon was a saviour who carried liberty,

equality and fraternity to outside France. He thought that he had brought unity to France. He is considered to be one of the most brilliant leaders in modern history.



Know This

Napoleon is popularly known as being very 'short', but he was actually of an average height. In all his portraits, Napoleon is depicted in the same position—turned slightly to the side and his hand is placed inside of his jacket. He was born on an island and died on an island.

NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE - THE FRENCH EMPEROR

1. Write short notes on the following topics :-

- a. Peninsular War b. Battle of Leipzig.

2. Answer the following questions :-

a. When was Napoleon forced to abdicate the throne? Where was Napoleon exiled to?

b. In which year did Napoleon escape from his exile? Where did he go? How many supporters did he have?

c. What do you know about Napoleon's Hundred Days Campaign?

3. Write down the importance of the following years -

- (a) June 1815 (b) June 16, 1815 (c) 18th June, 1815
(d) 22nd June 1815. (e) October 1815 (f) 5th May, 1821

4. Evaluate Napoleon's character as a leader.