Congress of Vienna
What is the Congress of Vienna?

- **Where is Vienna?** Austria
- The Congress of Vienna was called by all of the Kings of Europe. After Napoleon was exiled, they met in order to decide how to redistribute the land and ensure that only royal power dominated the leadership of Europe.
- **Why was Napoleon such a threat?** He was a product of the French Revolution. The royalty in Europe was terrified of an ordinary citizen rising to power and forming an empire.
What do you notice about the map?

How much territory is under Napoleon?

How do you predict that the map will change after the Congress of Vienna?
What caused the Congress of Vienna?

- Colonies - territories taken over and ruled by another country
  - British used naval power to occupy several French colonies. Now they have colonies elsewhere

- Reparations - money that a country owns in order to pay war debts
  - Napoleonic wars cost money, lives, and destruction of cities, towns, and farmland. French owe!

- Return of Plundered Art
  - Napoleon’s armies stole art from conquered countries and put them in Louvre. Countries want them back.
Goals of Congress of Vienna

- **Stability** - Since France had been under Napoleon, the other European countries had been under almost constant warfare defending their territories.
- **Suppress revolutions like the French Revolution**. Think about it: If you are the king of Prussia, you do not want their to be a revolution, especially when the safety of your throne and head are at stake.
- **Settle Territorial Questions**
What do you see in this picture? What social class are these men from?
Congress of Vienna Timeline

- (Begins after Napoleon surrendered to the allied powers of Europe in Paris after 150,000 troops were marched into the city)
May 1814

- The first Treaty of Paris is signed by England, Prussia and Russia; restored the Bourbon line to the throne of France and reduced it to its former size (pre-1792).
September 1814

- The Congress of Vienna convened with representatives from England, Prussia, Russia, Austria, France, and several smaller countries; The congress met to reconstruct the map of Europe and develop a balance of power that would prevent another massive take-over by one country.
March 1, 1815

- Urgent message to the delegates of the Congress of Vienna:

The Emperor Napoleon has escaped Elba and was seen with troops in the South of France early today.
Reactions from the Congress of Vienna

- Wellington: I must prepare to confront this power hungry madman!"

- Metternich: We must continue on so that we are ready to implement our plan once Napoleon has been defeated. Perhaps we should move him to an island further away.
1815, March 1st: Napoleon landed in Southern France with an army of 1000 men hoping to take the allies by surprise and regain control of France; In Vienna, the representatives stopped fighting over which country received more land and banded together to form a powerful army.
1815, March 13th: Napoleon reached Paris and defeated the army of Louis XVIII, declared himself emperor; began his 100 day reign of France
1815, June 8: Final act of Congress of Vienna signed, ending the summit with a reconstructed Europe and a plan for a balance of power
1815, June 18: Battle of Waterloo, Belgium; Germans, Dutchmen and English defeated Napoleon's strengthened army due to Napoleon's unfortunate medical condition; ended Napoleon's final reign of France
1821, May 21: Napoleon died on St. Helena, a small, English-owned island in the South Pacific
Major Personalities
Russia

- **Czar Alexander I**: Represented Russia at the Congress. One of the Big Four. Main goal was to get Poland, only got part due to opposition from the rest of the Four. Formed the idealistic Holy Alliance in 1815 to keep order in Europe.
**Viscount Robert Castlereagh:**

Represented Britain at the Congress. Proponent of a Concert of Europe. Prevented Russia from gaining too much from the victory over Napoleon. Wanted a stronger Germany and Italy. Later committed suicide after appearing to go insane.
Prince Karl August von Hardenberg:
Represented Prussia at the Congress.
Brokered the deal between Russia and Britain over Poland. Gained the Rhineland by giving up Prussian claims to Saxony. Part of the Holy Alliance.
Prince Klemens von Metternich: The architect of the Congress of Vienna, Metternich was the Austrian foreign minister for decades. His main goal was to support conservative governments in Europe and to establish a Balance of Power; this was to prevent another power dominating Europe as had France. He prevented Prussia from gaining more power in Germany and pushed for an Austrian-dominated German-Confederation.
France

- Prince Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand: The French representative at the Congress, Talleyrand quickly moved from defending France from any serious damage to becoming the deciding factor in solving many disputes at the Congress.
How is this map different from the map of 1812?
Results of Congress of Vienna

- adopted a fair policy of no great rewards and no great punishments
- gave a balanced settlement which ensured no major conflict for forty years (the Crimean War, 1854-6) and then until 1914
- was still generous to the defeated France, so as not to give rise to French feelings of revenge
- adopted a policy to restore the status quo ante bellum [the situation as it was before the war] — a return to 1793 as far as possible. of these forces
- restored monarchies across Europe
- ignored demands for greater democracy and nationalism; this led to the majority of conflicts in the Nineteenth Century, between and within countries
- the restored monarchies were troubled by nationalist reformers wanting democracy