An "utterly subversive" revolution

1 An English cartoon on the attempted flight of the French royal family in June 1791.



- **2** Address to King George III, presented by Prime Minister William Pitt and voted by the House of Commons on February 1, 1793. It was agreed to without a division and entailed a state of war between England and France:
- "To offer his Majesty our heartfelt condolence on the atrocious act lately perpetrated at Paris ¹, which must be viewed by every nation in Europe as an outrage on religion, justice, and humanity, and as a striking and dreadful example of the effects of principles which lead to the violation of the most sacred duties, and are utterly subversive of the peace and order of all civil society.
- To represent to his Majesty, that it is impossible for us not to be sensible of the views of aggrandizement and ambition which, in violation of repeated and solemn professions, have been openly manifested on the part of France, and which are connected with the propagation of principles incompatible with the existence of all just and regular government; that under the present circumstances, we consider a vigorous and effectual opposition to those views, as essential to the security of every thing that is most dear and valuable to us as a nation, and to the future tranquillity and safety of all other countries."

In *The Speeches of the Right Honourable William Pitt in the House of Commons*, London, Longman, 1806, volume 2, pages 112-113.

> Using the documents and your knowledge, explain why England criticized the French Revolution and eventually waged war on Revolutionary France.

^{1.} The execution of Louis XVI, the former king of France, on 21 January 1793.