**Napoleon Bonaparte, 1769–1821**

|  |
| --- |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Illustration: Napoleon on horseback | http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | Illustration: Napoleon at Fontainebleau |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | | http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif |
| *Napoleon on Horseback* at the St. Bernard Pass, by Jacques-Louis David, 1801 | http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | *Napoleon at Fontainebleau,* by Paul Delaroche, 1814 |

The people who knew or met Napoleon held different opinions about him. He inspired fierce loyalty in his troops. His wife Josephine adored him. Some other observers, though, saw Napoleon as cold and unfeeling.

As is the case with famous people, historians and artists have also portrayed Napoleon in different ways, depending on their points of view. Compare the two portraits of Napoleon above and how the artists’ viewpoints differed.

**Which of the portraits is more realistic and why?**

**How does each reflect different aspects of Napoleon’s personality as well as the rise and decline of his fortunes?**