

The Enlightenment

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

As you have read, the Scientific Revolution led to new discoveries. At the same time, it also led to many new ideas about government and society.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- During the 1700s, many Europeans believed that reason could be used to make government and society better. (page 681)
- The Enlightenment was centered in France, where thinkers wrote about changing their society and met to discuss their ideas. (page 684)
- Many of Europe's monarchs, who claimed to rule by the will of God, tried to model their countries on Enlightenment ideas. (page 686)

Locating Places

- Prussia** (PRUH•shuh)
- Austria** (AWS•tree•uh)
- St. Petersburg** (PEE•tuhrz•BUHRG)

Meeting People

- Thomas Hobbes** (HAHBZ)
- John Locke**
- Montesquieu** (MAHN•tuhs•KYOO)
- Voltaire** (vohl•TAR)

Building Your Vocabulary

- natural law**
- social contract**
- separation of powers**
- deism** (DEE•IH•zuhm)
- absolutism** (AB•suh•LOO•TIH•zuhm)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Complete a table like the one below showing the major ideas of Enlightenment thinkers.

Thinkers	Ideas



When & Where?



1600

1643
Louis XIV becomes king of France

1700

1690
John Locke writes about government

1800

1792
Mary Wollstonecraft calls for women's rights

New Ideas About Politics

Main Idea During the 1700s, many Europeans believed that reason could be used to make government and society better.

Reading Focus What makes people get along with each other? Do they need rules, a strong leader, or to learn to work together? Read to learn how thinkers in Europe answered these questions.

During the 1700s, European thinkers were impressed by scientific discoveries in the natural world. They believed that reason could also uncover the scientific laws that governed human life. Once these laws were known, thinkers said, people could use the laws to make society better.

As the Scientific Revolution advanced, many educated Europeans came to believe that reason was a much better guide than faith or tradition. To them, reason was a “light” that revealed error and showed the way to truth. As result, the 1700s became known as the Age of Enlightenment.

During the Enlightenment, political thinkers tried to apply reason and scientific ideas to government. They claimed that there was a **natural law**, or a law that applied to everyone and could be understood by reason. This law was the key to understanding government. As early as the 1600s, two English thinkers—Thomas Hobbes and John Locke—used natural law to develop very different ideas about how government should work.

Who Was Thomas Hobbes? **Thomas Hobbes** (HAHBZ) wrote about English government and society. During his life, England was torn apart by civil war. Supporters of King Charles I fought those who backed Parliament. Charles I wanted to have absolute, or total, power as king. Parliament claimed to represent the people



▲ This illustration is from the title page of Hobbes's *Leviathan*. **What sort of government did Hobbes support in *Leviathan*?**

and demanded a greater voice in running England. The fighting finally led to Charles's execution. This event shocked Thomas Hobbes, who was a strong supporter of the monarchy.

In 1651 Hobbes wrote a book called *Leviathan*. In this work, Hobbes argued that natural law made absolute monarchy the best form of government.

According to Hobbes, humans were naturally selfish and violent. They could not be trusted to make decisions on their own. Left to themselves, people would make life “nasty, brutish, and short.” Therefore, Hobbes said, they needed to obey a government that had the power of a leviathan, or sea monster. To Hobbes, this meant the rule of a king, because only a strong ruler could give people direction.

Why Is John Locke Important? Another English thinker **John Locke** thought differently. He used natural law to affirm citizens' rights and to make government answerable to the people.

Primary Source

The Law of Nations

Montesquieu's beliefs about government are still influential today.

"Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive. Were it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed to arbitrary control; for the judge would be then the legislator. Were it joined to the executive power, the judge might behave with violence and oppression."

—Montesquieu,
The Spirit of Laws



▲ Montesquieu

DBQ Document-Based Question

According to Montesquieu, why should judges be independent?

During Locke's life, another English king, James II, wanted to set up an absolute monarchy against Parliament's wishes. In 1688 war threatened, and James fled the country. Parliament then asked Mary, James's daughter, and her husband, William, to take the throne. This event came to be called the "Glorious Revolution."

In return for the English throne, William and Mary agreed to a Bill of Rights. In this document, they agreed to obey Parliament's laws. The document also guaranteed all English people basic rights, like those the Magna Carta had given to the nobles. For example, people had the right to a fair trial

by jury and to freedom from cruel punishment for a crime.

In 1690 John Locke explained many of the ideas of the Glorious Revolution in a book called *Two Treatises of Government*. Locke stated that government should be based on natural law. This law, said Locke, gave all people from their birth certain natural rights. Among them were the right to life, the right to liberty, and the right to own property.

Locke believed that the purpose of government is to protect these rights. All governments, he said, were based on a **social contract**, or an agreement between rulers and the people. If a ruler took away people's natural rights, the people had a right to revolt and set up a new government.

Who Was Montesquieu? England's government after the Glorious Revolution was admired by thinkers in France. They liked it better than their own absolute monarchy. In 1748 Baron **Montesquieu** (MAHN•tuhs•KYOO), a French thinker, published a book called *The Spirit of Laws*.

In this book, Montesquieu said that England's government was the best because it had a separation of powers. **Separation of powers** means that power should be equally divided among the branches of government: executive, legislative, and judicial. The legislative branch would make the laws while the executive branch would enforce them. The judicial branch would interpret the laws and judge when they were broken. By separating these powers, government could not become too powerful and threaten people's rights.

Reading Check Explain According to Montesquieu, how should government be organized?

Biography

JOHN LOCKE

1632–1704

John Locke was born in Somerset, England. His father was a lawyer but also served as a cavalry soldier. Using his military connections, he arranged for his son John to get a good education. Locke studied classical languages, grammar, philosophy, and geometry at Oxford University. To Locke, the courses were not exciting, so he turned to his true interests—science and medicine.

After graduating, Locke went to work for governments in Europe. He continued to study science and philosophy. He particularly liked the work of Descartes. In 1671 Locke began recording his own ideas about how people know things. Nineteen years later, he published his ideas in *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. In this book, Locke argued that people's minds are blank when they are born and that society shapes what people think and believe. This idea meant that if people could make society better, it would also make people better.

In 1683 Locke fled to Holland after the English government began to think his political ideas were dangerous. During that time, he was declared a traitor and was not able to return until after the Glorious Revolution of 1688. It was at that time that he wrote his famous *Two Treatises of Government*. Soon afterward, Locke retired to Essex. There he enjoyed frequent visits from Sir Isaac Newton and other friends until his death in 1704.



▲ John Locke

“Law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom.”

—John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*



▲ William and Mary being crowned following the Glorious Revolution

Then and Now

Give examples of how Locke's ideas have influenced our lives and ideas.

The French Philosophes

Main Idea The Enlightenment was centered in France, where thinkers wrote about changing their society and met to discuss their ideas.

Reading Focus What role do writers play in the United States today? Read on to find out what effect writers had on Europe during the Enlightenment.

During the 1700s, France became the major center of the Enlightenment. As the Enlightenment spread, thinkers in France and elsewhere became known by the French name *philosophe* (FEE • luh • ZAWF), which means “philosopher.” Most philosophes were writers, teachers, journalists, and observers of society.

The philosophes wanted to use reason to change society. They attacked superstition, or unreasoned beliefs. They also disagreed with Church leaders who opposed new scientific discoveries. The philosophes believed in both freedom of speech and the individual’s right to liberty. They used their skills as writers to spread their ideas across Europe.

Who Was Voltaire? The greatest thinker of the Enlightenment was François-Marie Arouet, known simply as **Voltaire** (vohl • TAR). Born in a middle-class family, Voltaire wrote many novels, plays, letters, and essays that brought him fame and wealth.

Voltaire became known for his strong dislike of the Roman Catholic Church. He blamed Church leaders for keeping

◀ Voltaire



▲ During the Enlightenment, upper-class nobles held gatherings of writers, artists, government officials, and other nobles in their homes to discuss and debate new ideas. **How did the philosophes spread their ideas?**

knowledge from people in order to maintain the Church's power. Voltaire also opposed the government supporting one religion and forbidding others. He thought people should be free to choose their own beliefs.

Throughout his life, Voltaire was a supporter of **deism** (DEE•IH•zuhm), a religious belief based on reason. According to the followers of deism, God created the world and set it in motion. He then allowed it to run itself by natural law.

Who Was Diderot? Denis Diderot was the French philosopher who did the most to spread Enlightenment ideas. With the help of friends, Diderot published a large, 28-volume encyclopedia. His project, which began in the 1750s, took about 20 years to complete.

The *Encyclopedia* included a wide range of topics, such as science, religion, government, and the arts. It became an important weapon in the philosophes' fight against traditional ways. Many articles attacked superstition and supported freedom of religion. Others called for changes that would make society more just and caring.

The Enlightenment and Women The Enlightenment raised questions about the role of women in society. Previously, many male thinkers claimed that women were less important than men and had to be controlled and protected. By the 1700s, however, women thinkers began calling for women's rights. The most powerful supporter of women's rights was the English writer Mary Wollstonecraft. Many people today see her as the founder of the modern movement for women's rights.

Primary Source

Natural Rights of Women

Mary Wollstonecraft argued that the natural rights of the Enlightenment should extend to women as well as men.



"In short, in whatever light I view the subject, reason and experience convince me that the only method of leading women to fulfill their peculiar [specific] duties is to free them from all restraint by allowing them to participate in the inherent rights of mankind. Make them free, and they will quickly become wise and virtuous, as men become more so, for the improvement must be mutual."

▲ Mary Wollstonecraft

—Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman: With Strictures on Political and Moral Subjects*

DBQ Document-Based Question

What did Wollstonecraft believe would happen if women were allowed rights?

In 1792 Mary Wollstonecraft wrote a book called *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. In this work, she claimed that all humans have reason. Because women have reason, they should have the same rights as men. Women, Wollstonecraft said, should have equal rights in education, the workplace, and in political life.

Rousseau's Social Contract By the late 1700s, some European thinkers were starting to criticize Enlightenment ideas. One of these thinkers was Jean-Jacques Rousseau (zhahn zhahk ru•SOH).

Rousseau claimed that supporters of the Enlightenment relied too much on reason. Instead, people should pay more attention to their feelings. According to Rousseau, human beings were naturally good, but civilized life corrupted them. To improve themselves, he thought people should live simpler lives closer to nature.

In 1762 Rousseau published a book called *The Social Contract*. In this work, Rousseau presented his political ideas. A workable government, he said, should be based on a social contract. This is an agreement in which everyone in a society agrees to be governed by the general will, or what society as a whole wants.

Reading Check Describe Who were the philosophes?

The Age of Absolutism

Main Idea Many of Europe's monarchs, who claimed to rule by the will of God, tried to model their countries on Enlightenment ideas.

Reading Focus If you were given the chance to be a leader, how would you treat the people you ruled? As you read, think about the power of Europe's kings and queens during the 1600s and 1700s.

During the 1600s and 1700s, many European thinkers favored limits on government power. However, powerful kings and queens ruled most of Europe. This system was known as **absolutism** (AB•suh•LOO•TIH•zuhm). In this system, monarchs held absolute, or total, power. They claimed to rule by divine right, or by the will of God. This meant that rulers did not answer to their people, but rather to God alone.



The Way It Was

Focus on Everyday Life

Music of the Enlightenment The 1700s was one of the greatest musical periods in history. Before this time, almost all music was religious in nature and was limited to church performances. During the Enlightenment, music was played in theaters for the first time, and some of the new pieces were not religious.



▲ A string quartet

Many types of music existed in the 1700s. Sonatas were performed with one instrument and a piano, and string quartets were played with four instruments. Concertos and symphonies were longer and involved an orchestra. Operas were full-scale theatrical performances using vocal and instrumental music.

Baroque music emphasized drama and emotion. Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel composed baroque music. Bach composed

However, as the Enlightenment spread, many of Europe's absolute rulers turned to philosophes for help in making their governments work better. At the same time, however, they did not want to lose any of their power. Historians used to call these rulers enlightened despots. Despots are rulers who hold total power.

Louis XIV: France's Sun King During the 1600s, France was one of Europe's strongest nations. In 1643 Louis XIV came to the throne. As king, Louis XIV was the most celebrated absolute monarch. His reign of 72 years—the longest in European history—set the style for Europe's kings and queens. Louis was known as the Sun King, the source of light for his people and for Europe's nobles and rulers.

Louis relied on a bureaucracy, but he was the source of all political authority in France. He is said to have boasted, "I am the State."

Louis's army fought and won wars to expand France's territory, but these conflicts were costly in money and soldiers to France. The king's constant wars and excessive spending weakened France and the monarchy.

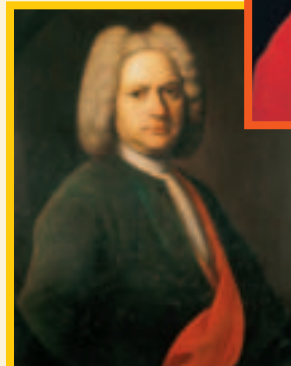
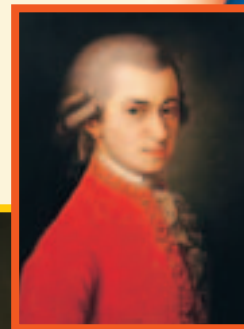
Frederick the Great During the 1600s and 1700s, Germany was a collection of over 300 separate states. Of these states, two—**Prussia** (PRUH•shuh) and **Austria** (AWS•tree•uh)—became great European powers.

The most famous Prussian ruler was Frederick II, also called Frederick the Great. He ruled from 1740 to 1786. As Prussia's king, Frederick strengthened the army and fought wars to gain new territory for Prussia. He also tried to be an "enlightened ruler." He supported the arts and learning and tried to carry out enlightened reforms. He permitted his people to speak and publish more freely. He also allowed greater religious toleration.

many pieces of music that are still popular today. Handel wrote many operas, but he is best known for *Messiah*, an oratorio, or religious composition that mixes voices, orchestra, and organ.

Classical music emerged in the mid-1700s. Classical composers, inspired by the ancient Greeks and Romans, emphasized balance, harmony, and stability. Franz Joseph Haydn and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote classical music. Haydn's use of instruments made the symphony more popular. Mozart composed a large number of musical pieces that remain popular today.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ▼



▲ Johann Sebastian Bach

Connecting to the Past

1. What is the difference in tone between baroque and classical music?
2. What factors allowed music to thrive during the 1700s?



Using Geography Skills

By the 1700s, Prussia and Austria had emerged as the most powerful German states.

1. Which state did Prussia acquire between 1700 and 1720?
2. During which of the periods shown on the map did Austria expand its territory the most?



Frederick the Great



Joseph II

Austria's Hapsburg Rulers By the 1700s, the other powerful German state—Austria—ruled a large empire of many different peoples, languages, and cultures. This vast Austrian empire spread over much of central and southeastern Europe. It was ruled by a family known as the Hapsburgs.

In 1740 a young Hapsburg princess named Maria Theresa became Austria's ruler. Clever and talented, Maria Theresa worked hard to improve the lot of Austria's serfs, who worked for the nobles. She also tried to make government work better.

After Maria Theresa died in 1780, her son, Joseph II, became ruler. Joseph II admired Enlightenment ideas. He freed the serfs, made land taxes equal for nobles and

farmers, and allowed books to be published freely. Most of Joseph's reforms failed, however. The nobles opposed Joseph's changes, and he was forced to back down. However, the former serfs, now farmers, were allowed to keep their freedom.

Russia's Peter I and Catherine II To the east of Austria stretched the vast empire of Russia. As you read previously, Russia was ruled by all-powerful rulers known as czars. One of the most powerful czars was Peter I, also known as Peter the Great. During his reign from 1689 to 1725, Peter tried to make Russia into a strong and up-to-date European power. He began reforms to make the government work more smoothly.

Peter also improved Russia's military and expanded Russia's territory westward to the Baltic Sea. In 1703 he founded a city called **St. Petersburg** (PEE • tuhrz • BUHRG) in this area. A few years later, Russia's capital was moved to St. Petersburg from Moscow.

After Peter died, conflict erupted among Russia's nobles. Then, in 1762 a German princess named Catherine came to the throne of Russia. Early in her reign, Catherine was devoted to Enlightenment ideas. She studied about and wrote letters to the philosophes. She even thought about freeing the serfs, but a serf uprising changed her mind. In the end, she allowed the nobles to treat the serfs as they pleased.

Under Catherine, Russia gained even more land and increased its power in Europe. As a result, Catherine became known as "the Great." However, by 1796,



Russia grew more powerful during the reigns of Peter the Great (above) and Catherine the Great (right). **How did Peter try to make Russia a European power?**

the year Catherine died, the ideas of liberty and equality had spread across Europe. These ideas seriously threatened the rule of powerful kings and queens.

Reading Check Explain How did the ideas of absolute monarchs conflict with the ideas of Enlightenment thinkers?

Section 3 Review

History online

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Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- In the 1700s, many Europeans thought reason could make government and society better. Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu developed ideas about how to improve government.
- Enlightenment thinkers, such as Voltaire, Diderot, and Rousseau, described ways to make society better.
- By the 1700s, most of Europe's rulers were absolute monarchs. Some, however, tried to create governments based on Enlightenment ideas.

What Did You Learn?

1. Who were the French philosophes?
2. What was the *Encyclopedia*, and what message did it attempt to deliver to its readers?
4. **Cause and Effect** How did civil war in England affect Hobbes?
5. **Explain** Do you think enlightened despots were really enlightened?

Critical Thinking

3. **Organizing Information** Draw a chart to list the rulers of the Enlightenment, their countries, and their accomplishments.

Ruler	Country	Accomplishments

6. **Conclude** Which of the Enlightenment thinkers discussed in this section do you think had the most impact on modern society? Explain your answer.
7. **Civics Link** Describe how beliefs about people and government during the Enlightenment are reflected in our government today.

Section

4

The American Revolution

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

Between the 1500s and 1700s, Europeans set up colonies in North America. In the British colonies, English traditions and the Enlightenment gave colonists a strong sense of their rights.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- European colonies in North America developed differently from each other and from Europe. (page 691)
- Great Britain faced problems in North America, because the American colonists objected to new British laws. (page 695)
- The American colonies formed a new nation, the United States of America. (page 698)

Locating Places

Quebec (kwih•BEHK)
 Jamestown
 Boston
 Philadelphia

Meeting People

Pilgrim
 George Washington
 Tom Paine
 Thomas Jefferson

Building Your Vocabulary

representative government
 constitution
 popular sovereignty
 (SAH•vuh•ruhn•tee)
 limited government

Reading Strategy

Cause and Effect Complete a cause-and-effect diagram showing why the British colonies declared independence.

	→	
	→	
	→	
	→	



When & Where?



1600

1700

1800

1620
 Pilgrims found colony in Massachusetts

1776
 Declaration of Independence is signed

1789
 U.S. Constitution is adopted



Settling North America

Main Idea European colonies in North America developed differently from each other and from Europe.

Reading Focus What would make you want to move to a new place? In this chapter, you will learn why Europeans settled in North America from the 1500s to the 1700s.

Previously, you learned that Spain and Portugal built colonies in the Americas in the 1500s. Beginning in the 1600s, the French, English, and other Europeans began setting up their own colonies in the Americas. While most of Spain's colonies were in the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America, most of France and England's colonies were in North America.

The Spanish in North America The Spanish did not ignore the lands north of Mexico and the Caribbean. In the 1500s, Spanish conquistadors explored the southeastern corner of North America and the lands north of Mexico. They had hoped to find wealthy empires like those of the Aztec and Inca. Instead, they found only small villages of Native Americans. As a result, Spain remained much more interested in its colonies in Mexico, Peru, and the Caribbean, because they provided large amounts of silver and gold.

The Spanish did not completely ignore the rest of North America. They built settlements and forts along the northern edge of their territory. These settlements, such as St. Augustine in Florida and Santa Fe in New Mexico, were intended to keep other Europeans out of Spanish territory.





▲ This painting shows what the original settlement at Jamestown may have looked like in 1607. **What prevented the Jamestown settlement from collapsing?**

Spanish priests also headed north. They set up missions, or religious communities, to teach Christianity and European ways to the Native Americans. Missions were set up in California, New Mexico, Florida, and other areas of North America.

France Settles North America The French came to North America to make money from fur trading. By the 1600s, beaver fur had become very popular in Europe. In 1608 French merchants hired explorer Samuel de Champlain (sham•PLAYN) to help them. Champlain set up a trading post named **Quebec** (kwih•BEHK) in what is now Canada. Quebec became the capital of the colony of New France.

From Quebec, French fur trappers, explorers, and missionaries moved into other parts of North America. In 1673 the explorers Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette found the Mississippi River. Then in 1682 a French explorer named La Salle followed the Mississippi all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. He named the region

Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV. The French settlers in southern Louisiana also began bringing in enslaved Africans to grow sugarcane, rice, and tobacco.

The English Settle in America

English settlers came to North America for many reasons. While merchants set up some English colonies to make money, others were set up by people who wanted religious freedom. England's colonies grew rapidly because of economic problems in England. Many people in England wanted to move to America because their landlords had evicted them from their farms. In

America, they had a chance to own land for themselves. Still others came because they were unemployed and needed work.

By 1600, England's rulers had accepted the ideas of mercantilism. Colonies and trading posts in Asia and America were making Europe's kingdoms wealthy. The English government believed colonies were needed to keep England strong.

In 1607 the Virginia Company, an English joint-stock company, set up the first permanent English settlement in North America. The settlers named it **Jamestown** after King James I. Jamestown was the first town of a new colony called Virginia.

Life in Virginia was very hard. The colonists could barely find enough to eat. Many settlers died from starvation and the cold winters, and others were killed in clashes with Native Americans.

During those first years, the colony made no money for the merchants who had invested in it. It might have collapsed had not one of the settlers, John Rolfe, discovered that tobacco could grow in Virginia's soil.

Tobacco was popular in Europe in the 1600s. Soon the colonists in Virginia were growing it in large amounts and selling it for a lot of money. Tobacco became the first cash crop of the English colonies. A cash crop is grown in large quantities to sell for profit.

Eventually, tobacco was grown on large farms called plantations. Because plantations need many workers, the English began bringing in enslaved Africans to work the land. The success of Virginia encouraged the English government to set up more colonies in America to grow cash crops. The colony of South Carolina, for example, began growing rice and indigo. The English also began setting up colonies in the Caribbean to grow sugarcane.

Not all English settlers came to North America in search of wealth. Some came to find religious freedom. As you read in the last chapter, many Protestants in England were Puritans. Puritans wanted to rid the Anglican

Church of Catholic rituals and allow each congregation to choose its own leaders. King James I and his son King Charles I both believed Puritans were a threat to their authority and persecuted them.

In 1620 a group of Puritans known as the **Pilgrims** decided to go to America so that they could worship freely. In 1620 they boarded a ship called the *Mayflower* and set out for North America. They landed just north of Cape Cod in what is today the state of Massachusetts. They named their settlement Plymouth.

The success of the Pilgrims encouraged other Puritans to begin leaving England for America. Led by John Winthrop, a group of Puritans landed in America and founded the colony of Massachusetts. Others soon followed. By 1643, more than 20,000 Puritans had moved to America. They founded Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire.

Primary Source

The Mayflower Compact

The Pilgrims governed themselves according to this document.

"Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do . . . covenant [agree] and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick [political group], for our better Ordering and Preservation. . . . And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, . . . and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience."

—Mayflower Compact, November 21, 1620



▲ The Pilgrims sign the Mayflower Compact.

DBQ Document-Based Question

To what do the Pilgrims promise submission and obedience?



KEY			
	Cattle		Lumber
	Fish		Rice
	Furs		Rum
	Grain		Ships
	Indigo		Tobacco
	Iron		Whales



Using Geography Skills

The 13 American colonies produced a variety of goods.

1. In general, where were fishing and whaling industries located?
2. What was a major crop in Virginia and Maryland?

Other people seeking religious freedom set up colonies as well. English Catholics founded Maryland in 1634. The Quakers, another religious group that had been persecuted in England, founded Pennsylvania in 1680.

By the early 1700s, the English had created 13 colonies along the coast of North America. These colonies had different economies and societies, but they had one thing in common: they wanted to govern themselves.

Self-Government in America The tradition of self-government began early in the English colonies. To attract more settlers, the head of the Virginia Company gave the colonists in Virginia the right to elect burgesses, or representatives, from among the men who owned land. The first House of Burgesses met in 1619. It was patterned after the English Parliament and voted on laws for the Virginia colony.

The House of Burgesses set an example for **representative government**, or a government in which people elect representatives to make laws and conduct government. It was not long before other colonies set up their own legislatures as well.

A year after the Virginia House of Burgesses met, the Pilgrims arrived in North America and began their own tradition of self-government. Before going ashore, the Pilgrims signed an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. They agreed to rule themselves by choosing their own leaders and making their own laws.

Over the years, most of the English colonies began drawing up **constitutions**, or written plans of government. These documents let the colonists elect assemblies and protected their rights.

Reading Check Compare and Contrast
How was the founding of Jamestown different from the founding of Plymouth?

Trouble in the Colonies

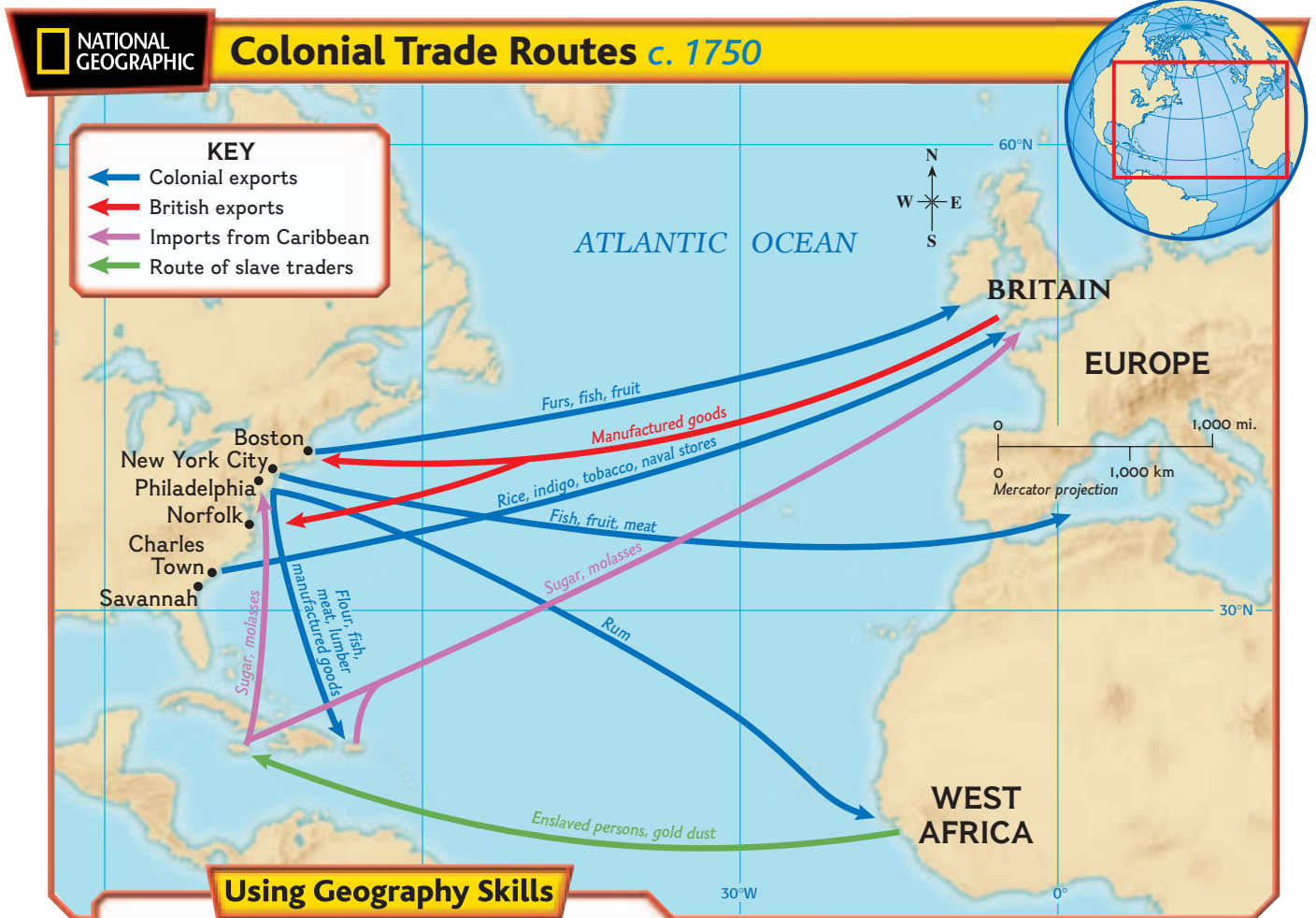
Main Idea Great Britain faced problems in North America, because the American colonists objected to new British laws.

Reading Focus Do you like to make your own decisions, without someone else telling you what to do? Read to find out why the American colonies wanted to make decisions without British interference.

During the early 1700s, there were many changes in England and its overseas colonies. In 1707 England united with

Scotland and became the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The term *British* came to mean both the English and the Scots.

By 1750, Great Britain had become the world's most powerful trading empire. It had 13 prosperous colonies along the Atlantic coast of America and others in India and the Caribbean. For years, Britain and its American colonies seemed to get along well. This relationship changed, however, when the British tried to control trade and impose taxes on the colonies. These efforts angered colonists.



Using Geography Skills

Colonies shipped raw materials to Britain and received manufactured goods in return.

1. What was shipped from the colonies to West Africa? From West Africa to the colonies?
2. Which area do you think benefited most from the trade pattern shown here? The least? Why?

The Road to Revolution

▼ Riots against the Stamp Act broke out in many American cities.

Why was the Stamp Act unpopular in the colonies?



◀ King George III



The Boston Massacre ▶

Colonial Government and Trade For many years, Great Britain had allowed the American colonies the freedom to run their local affairs. In each colony, men who owned property elected representatives to a legislature. Colonial legislatures passed laws and could tax the people. However, the governor of a colony could veto laws passed by the legislature. The king appointed the governor in most colonies.

Great Britain controlled the colonies' trade according to the ideas of mercantilism. The American colonies produced raw materials, such as tobacco, rice, indigo, wheat, lumber, fur, deerskin leather, fish, and whale products. These were then shipped to Great Britain and traded for manufactured goods such as clothing, furniture, and goods from Asia, such as tea or spices.

To control this trade, Britain passed a series of laws called the Navigation Acts in

the 1600s. Under these laws the colonists had to sell their raw materials to Britain even if they could get a better price elsewhere. Any goods bought by the colonies from other countries in Europe had to go to England first and be taxed before they could be sent to the Americas. The trade laws also said that all trade goods had to be carried on ships built in Britain or the colonies and that the crews had to be British as well.

The colonists at first accepted the trade laws because it guaranteed them a place to sell their raw materials. Later, the colonists came to resent British restrictions. With population in the colonies growing, the colonists wanted to make their own manufactured goods. They also wanted to sell their products elsewhere if they could get higher prices. Many colonial merchants began smuggling, or shipping goods in and



▲ During the Boston Tea Party, a group of colonists, some dressed as Native Americans, dumped chests of tea into Boston Harbor. Many more colonists cheered them on from shore. **What was Britain's response to this event?**

out of the country without paying taxes or getting government permission.

Why Did the British Tax the Colonies?

Between 1756 and 1763, the French and British fought for control of North America. The British won, gaining nearly all of France's North American empire. The war was very costly, however, and left the British government deep in debt. Desperate for money, the British made plans to tax the colonists and tighten trade rules.

In 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which taxed newspapers and other printed material. All of these items had to bear a stamp showing that the tax was paid. The colonists were outraged. They responded by boycotting, or refusing to buy, British goods.

Finally, delegates from nine colonies met in New York to discuss the Stamp Act. They sent a letter to the British government

stating that the colonies could not be taxed except by their own assemblies. The British backed down for a while, but they still needed money. In 1767 Parliament placed taxes on glass, lead, paper, paint, and tea.

Tax Protests Lead to Revolt The American colonists grumbled about the new taxes. They bullied the tax collectors, and journalists drew ugly cartoons of King George III. Worried, the British sent more troops to **Boston**, Massachusetts, where the largest protests had taken place.

In March 1770, violence broke out. A crowd of colonists began insulting British soldiers and throwing snowballs at them. The soldiers fired into the crowd. Five people were killed. This event came to be called the Boston Massacre. Shortly thereafter, all of the taxes were repealed, or canceled, except the one on tea.

In 1773 Parliament passed the Tea Act. It allowed a British trading company to ship tea to the colonies without paying the taxes colonial tea merchants had to pay. This allowed the company to sell its tea very cheaply and threatened to drive the colonial tea merchants out of business.

In Massachusetts, angry colonists decided to take action. A group of protesters dressed as Native Americans boarded several British ships in Boston Harbor and dumped their cargoes of tea into the water. This event is known as the Boston Tea Party.

To punish the colonists, Parliament in 1774 passed laws that closed down Boston Harbor and put the government of Massachusetts under military rule. It also said that British troops should be quartered, or given a place to live, in colonists' homes. The colonists called these laws the Intolerable Acts, or laws they could not bear.

The Intolerable Acts made the colonists more determined to fight for their liberties.

In September 1774, delegates from 12 colonies met in Philadelphia. They called themselves the First Continental Congress. The Congress spoke out against the Intolerable Acts and called for their repeal.

Colonial leaders, however, were divided about what to do. Some, like George Washington of Virginia, hoped to settle the differences with Great Britain. Others, like Samuel Adams of Massachusetts and Patrick Henry of Virginia, wanted the colonies to become independent.

Reading Check Identify What was the Boston Tea Party?

The War of Independence

Main Idea The American colonies formed a new nation, the United States of America.

Reading Focus What causes people to go to war? Read to find out how the war between Great Britain and the Americans shaped the course of world history.

Before the colonists could decide what to do, fighting broke out in Massachusetts. The British set out to destroy a store of weapons at Concord. On April 19, 1775, they met colonial troops at Lexington and fought the first battle of the American Revolution.

Primary Source

The Declaration of Independence

On July 4, 1776, Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. The preamble—the first part of the document—explains Congress’s reason for issuing the declaration:

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another. . . . they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

The document also explained that people have certain basic rights:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

—Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

DBQ Document-Based Question

Why do you think the Congress thought they had to issue a written declaration of independence?



▲ Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, shown left to right, worked together to write the Declaration of Independence.



▲ The American leaders who met in Philadelphia in 1787 and wrote the United States Constitution were some of the nation's greatest political minds.

What sort of system of government did the Constitution create?

In May 1775, the Second Continental Congress met in **Philadelphia**. **George Washington** was named head of a new colonial army. The Congress then tried again to settle their differences with Great Britain. They appealed to King George III, who refused to listen.

More and more Americans began to think that independence was the only answer. In January 1776, a writer named **Tom Paine** made up many minds when he wrote a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. Paine used strong words to condemn the king and urged the colonists to separate from Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence On July 4, 1776, the Congress issued the Declaration of Independence. Written by **Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia, the Declaration stated that the colonies were separating from Great Britain and forming a new nation, the United States of America.

In the Declaration, Jefferson explained why the colonists were founding a new nation. To do this, Jefferson borrowed the ideas of John Locke. In Section 3, you learned about Locke's idea that people have the right to overthrow governments that violate their rights. The Declaration stated that "all men are created equal" and have certain God-given rights. It said that King

George III had violated colonists' rights, and so they had the right to rebel.

The Declaration also drew from earlier English documents, such as the Magna Carta and the English Bill of Rights. Both documents established the idea that governments are not all-powerful and that rulers had to obey the laws and treat citizens fairly.

How Did the Americans Win the War?

After the Declaration was made, the war between the British and Americans dragged on. The first important American victory came in 1777 at the Battle of Saratoga in New York. This battle marked a turning point in the war. France, Great Britain's old enemy, realized that the United States might actually win. In 1778 France agreed to help the Americans.

The French were very important in the final victory. This came in 1781 at the Battle of Yorktown on the coast of Virginia. The French navy blocked the British from escaping by sea, while American and French forces surrounded and trapped the British inside Yorktown. Realizing they could not win, the British laid down their weapons. Peace negotiations began, and two years later, the Treaty of Paris ended the war.

The United States Constitution In 1783 Great Britain recognized American

independence. At first the United States was a confederation, or a loose union of independent states. Its plan of government was a document called the Articles of Confederation. The Articles created a national government, but the states held most powers. It soon became clear that the Articles were too weak to deal with the new nation's problems.

In 1787, 55 delegates met in Philadelphia to change the Articles. Instead, they decided to write a constitution for an entirely new national government. The new United States Constitution set up a federal system, in which powers were divided between the national government and the states. Following the ideas of Montesquieu, power in the national government was divided between executive, legislative, and judicial branches. A system called checks and balances enabled each branch to limit the powers of the other branches.

Under the Constitution, the United States was a republic with an elected president instead of a king. Elections held in 1789 made George Washington the first president of the United States. That same year, a Bill of Rights was added to the U.S. Constitution. The Bill of Rights set out certain rights the government could not violate. These rights included freedom of religion, speech, and press, and the right to trial by jury.

The U.S. Constitution was also shaped by Enlightenment principles. One of these is **popular sovereignty** (SAH•vuh•ruhn•tee), or the idea that government receives its powers from the people. Another is **limited government**, or the idea that a government may use only those powers given to it by the people.

Reading Check Explain Why did the colonists decide to separate from Great Britain and create a new nation?

Section 4 Review

History  online

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Reading Summary

Review the **Main Ideas**

- In North America, the French settled in Canada and along the Mississippi River, while the British settled along the Atlantic coast.
- Americans protested when the British government attempted to impose more control and more taxes on the colonies.
- The Americans defeated the British in the American Revolution and set up a republican form of government with powers divided among three branches.

What Did You Learn?

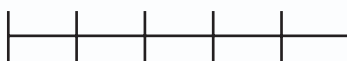
1. When and where was the first battle of the American Revolution fought?
5. **Civics Link** Which of John Locke's ideas appeared in the Declaration of Independence?

2. What is the Bill of Rights?

Critical Thinking

3. Sequence Information

Draw a time line like the one below. Fill in events related to the American Revolution.



4. **Analyze** Why did England's colonies in America grow quickly?

6. **Explain** How did the search for religious freedom affect the founding of colonies in America?
7. **Persuasive Writing** Write two letters to the editor at a colonial newspaper. One should support British involvement in its American colonies. The other should support the colonists' arguments for independence.