

The Enlightenment

or “Age of Reason”

What was the Enlightenment?

What was the importance of the Enlightenment?

How did Enlightenment ideas spread?

What are the lasting effects of the Enlightenment?

Learning Goal 5: Explain how Calvin, Locke, Hobbes, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Jefferson and Blackstone contributed to the new ideas presented during the Enlightenment and describe the impact of these ideas. (TEKS/SE’s 1E,20C)

Renaissance discovery of new classical manuscripts leads scholars to question accepted knowledge.

Discoveries of Copernicus and other scientists challenge accepted thinking.

Causes of the Scientific Revolution

Exploration broadens European horizons.

The printing Press spreads new Ideas.

What was the Enlightenment?

Definition: A revolution in intellectual activity that changed European views of government and society.

What inspired the Enlightenment?

- The Renaissance triggered a new way of thinking; people turned to reason to answer their questions about the world around them*

Enlightenment Video

Importance of the Enlightenment

“So, why does it matter?”

Many freedoms and some forms of government in many countries today are a result of Enlightenment thinking.

Enlightenment Ideas

Philosophes were responsible for
Enlightenment ideas.

Hobbes

Locke

Voltaire

Montesquieu

Who are they?

Rousseau

Calvin

Jefferson

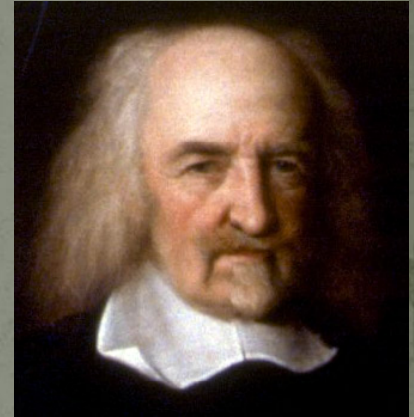
Blackstone

Using the reading packet you will research the contributions of the Enlightenment philosophers. You will then use this information to fill out your “All-Star” trading cards.

Philosophes: Hobbes vs. Locke

• Thomas Hobbes

- Strong government needed to preserve society and keep order
- Humans are naturally selfish and wicked
 - Need all-powerful ruler to suppress natural violent tendencies



• John Locke

– Natural Rights*

- Life, liberty, and property

– Humans are naturally able to govern themselves; favored self-government

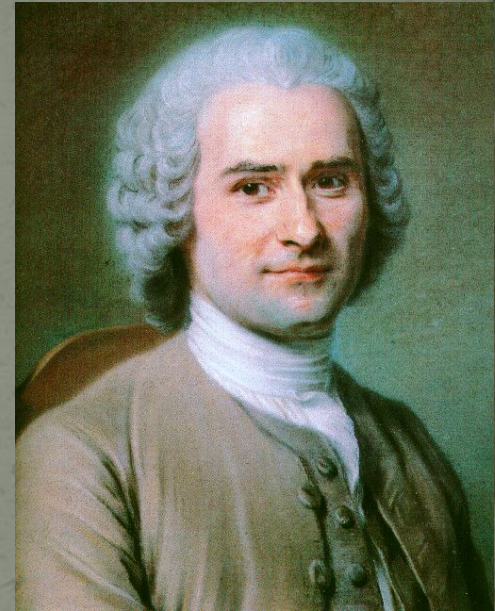
– Government should have the consent of the governed



Philosophes

- **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

- *The Social Contract*
 - Society agrees to be governed by its general will
 - Separation between church and state
- Individual rights, freedom, & equality
- People are naturally good
- Society Corrupts them



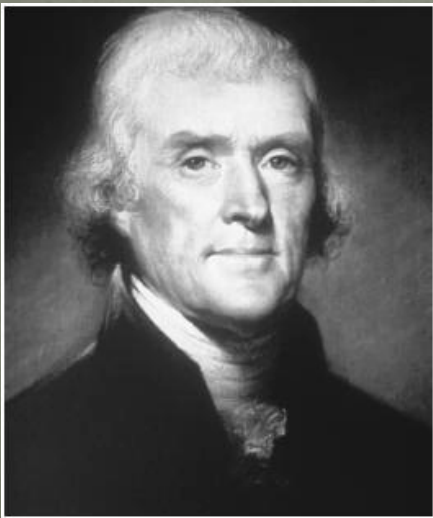
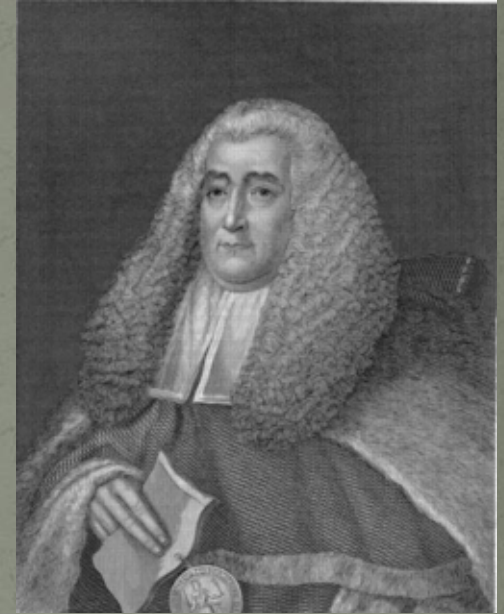
- **John Calvin**

- Predestination-belief that God decided, before creating the world, who will & will not be saved
- Geneva, Switzerland-a model Christian community
- Restrictions on individuals by public scrutiny and punishment

Philosophes

- **Sir William Blackstone**

- Common law legal system
- Individual rights based on the law
- Influenced writers of U.S. Constitution
- *Blackstone's Ratio*-better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer



- **Thomas Jefferson**

- Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
 - Based on Locke's natural rights
- It is acceptable to rebel in order to restrain govt. and retain individual rights
- Author of the *Declaration of Independence*

Philosophes



- **Voltaire**

- Most popular writer of Enlightenment
- Criticized Christianity (Deist)
- Strong belief in religious tolerance & free speech
- Freedom of thought & expression

- **Baron de Montesquieu**

- Limit control through Check and Balances
 - Separation of Powers*
- Identified 3 kinds of government
 - Republics (small states)
 - Despotism (large states)
 - Monarchies (moderate-size states)



The Spread of Enlightenment Ideas

- Key Idea: Enlightenment ideas circulated in pamphlets and formal discussions. The new ideals of order and reason reflected in the arts and music. European monarchs make limited reforms based on Enlightenment ideas.



Circulation of Ideas*
Salons, *Encyclopedia*,
Books, Letters, Magazines,
Pamphlets

Art and Literature
Neoclassical art,
Classical music, Novels

Spread of Enlightenment Ideas

Politics
Constitutions, Social contracts,
Individual rights and freedoms,
Enlightened despots

Answer the following prompt based on the research you conducted today.

Remember – Underline Stance &
Highlight Evidence

Which two All Stars of the Enlightenment have the greatest impact on us today?

Take a stance and justify your answer.

Enlightenment

- Natural Laws influenced human society and how people lived and worked
- The Enlightenment thinkers wanted to reform society
- Encourage the spread of ideas
- Increased Public Education