The Enlightenment
The Enlightenment

• Intellectual Movement
• Peaked during 18th century (1700’s)
• Writers and philosophers (mainly in London and Paris) saw themselves as being more intellectually advanced than their peers.
• Set out to « Enlighten » them
Enlightenment Thinkers

• These thinkers believed that human reason and logic could be used to combat ignorance, superstition, and tyranny, and build a better world

Voltaire  Rousseau  Locke  Diderot
Enlightenment Targets

• The principle targets of Enlightenment thinkers were:
  – Religion (specifically the Catholic Church in France)
  – Domination of society by a hereditary aristocracy
Ideals of the Enlightenment

• Scientific Revolution
  – New knowledge and theory

• Philosophy
  – Role of government and human rights

• Religious thought and practice
  – Questioning authority and doctrine

• Class Equality
  – Removal of the aristocrat
**Scientific Revolution**

- Enlightenment thinkers wanted to know why things were as they were in the natural world.
- These men turned away from the religious explanation of nature, towards an understanding based on experimentation, knowledge, and fact.
Heliocentrism

Europeans believed that the earth was the center of the universe (geocentric).

Scientists such as Galileo, Copernicus, and Kepler proved scientifically that the sun was actually the center of the solar system (heliocentric).
The Scientific Method

• Not a new idea
• Became more practiced in the scientific community
• Way for intellectuals to verify ideas and theories as fact.
Newton’s Laws

Newton’s first law: Inertia
- An object in motion will stay in motion
- An object at rest will stay at rest
Newton’s Laws

• Newton’s Second Law: Acceleration

How fast something goes depends on its mass and how much force is applied. The greater the mass, the more force is needed to change its speed.
Newton's Third Law:
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.
Enlightenment Thinkers

John Locke

No, not THIS John Locke

THIS John Locke
• “Two Treatises of Government”
  – Said Absolutism is wrong
  – Said there is a “social contract” between the government and the governed
John Locke

• All people are entitled to natural rights, including women
• The governed should be willing to give up some natural rights in exchange for order and protection from the government
• If the state doesn’t respect people’s natural rights or abuses its power, the people have the right to abolish the government and create one that better follows the “contract”
John Locke: Natural Rights

- A civil society is created for the purpose of protecting natural rights
  - Life
  - Liberty
  - Property

- These ideas influenced Jefferson in writing the Declaration of Independence
• With your shoulder partner discuss:
  
  1. Do you agree with Locke’s theories regarding Social Contract? Explain.

  2. If someone violated another person’s Natural Rights, should they be able to sustain theirs? Explain.

  3. Locke claims that people have the right to revolt against the government if they feel the government has become abusive in its power. Case study: In 1773, a group of men known as the Sons of Liberty dressed up as American Indians, boarded British ships filled with tea, and threw it into the Boston Harbor. They did this because they were being taxed on tea without any representation by the British government. The British wanted to try those involved for treason. Were the Sons of Liberty within their rights or were they merely terrorists? Explain.
Montesquieu

- Believed in a three part system of government
- Separation of governmental powers
- Believed in civil rights
Rousseau

- Politics and morality are not separate
- People should rely more on emotions and instinct rather than reason and logic
- Government is a contract between citizen and ruler
- The purpose of government is to preserve freedom
Voltaire

- Favored freedom of expression and the separation of church and state
- "I disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it."
Voltaire

- Favored an enlightened absolute monarch that granted people civil rights
- Didn’t think that the majority of people would make intelligent decisions, but an enlightened ruler could work for the good of his people
Diderot

• Atheist
• Said Life originated scientifically, not through divine intervention
  — Precursor to theory of evolution
• Endorsed separation of church and state
Adam Smith

• Wrote “Wealth of Nations” which introduced the idea of capitalism
• Create a division of labor
• Get rid of monopolies and regulations. These reduce an individual's incentive to work
• Exploit the world’s unlimited natural resources for human profit.
Question 1

- I believe in the separation of church and state.
- A. Locke
- B. Voltaire
- C. Diderot
Question 2

I feel people cannot make rationale decisions for themselves; therefore, I feel there does need to be an absolute ruler, but they need to be enlightened; protecting people’s rights.

A. Voltaire
B. Smith
C. Rousseau
Question 3

- I feel the government needs to be divided into three parts in order to separate the powers of the government.

- A. Locke
- B. Rousseau
- C. Montesquieu
I believe government’s accrue wealth by creating an economic system based upon capitalism

A. Voltaire
B. Smith
C. Locke
I believe feelings and instinct should not be overridden by logic when making decisions.

- A. Montesquieu
- B. Diderot
- C. Rousseau
The government is to protect the people’s natural rights; however, if the government ceases to do this, they broke the social contract and therefore, people have the right to depose the government and replace them with others that will adhere to the social contract.

A. Locke
B. Smith
C. Montesquieu
How did Enlightenment ideas spread?
Salons

~ Wealthy Parisian women would open their homes for meetings

~ Philosophers, writers, artists, and scientists gathered to discuss ideas and enjoy performances

~ Women such as Madam Geoffrin became an important part of the spread of Enlightenment ideals
Philosopher Diderot wanted to create a large set of books that contained all of the enlightened thinking about science, technology, art, and government.

Enlightenment thinkers were asked to write articles on these subjects for the “Encyclopedia.”

The “Encyclopedia” was quickly banned for its views that went against the teachings of the Catholic Church and French government.
The Word Spreads

- Enlightened thinkers considered themselves part of a community.
- Enlightenment thinkers shared ideas through books, letters, visits, and magazine articles.
- Ideas reach middle class people through newspapers, pamphlets, and political songs.
Role of Women

- Although Enlightenment thinkers believed in natural rights and the advantages of education, many still believed that the place for the woman was in the home.
- For example, Rousseau believed in the need for education, but felt that a woman’s education should teach how to be a good wife/mother.
Mary Wolstonecraft

• Wrote “A Vindication of the Rights of Women”
• Argued that women, like men, need education to become virtuous.
• Education will make women better mothers
Monarchies

• Just like the ideas of the Enlightenment were catching on with the people, they also caught on with many of the Absolute monarchs of Europe.

• Philosophers such as Voltaire attempted to convince monarchs to rule justly, and respect the rights of their people.

• Many monarchs accepted these new ideas, instituting reforms

• These rulers became known as “Enlightened Despots”
Enlightened Despots

- Motivation was not to give up power
  - Wanted to make their countries stronger
  - Make their rule more effective
Frederick the Great

- Prussian King
“I must enlighten my people, cultivate their manners and morals, and make them as happy as human beings can be, or as happy as the means at my disposal permit”

- Frederick the Great

- Called himself the “first servant of the state”

- How is this different from what Louis XIV thought of himself?
Reforms under Frederick the Great

- Granted many religious freedoms
- Reduced censorship
- Improved education
- Abolished use of torture
Catherine the Great

- Russian Ruler from 1762-1796
- Proposed reforms such as religious toleration, and elimination of torture, however these are never passed
- Passes small reforms
Catherine the Great

- Although Catherine admired the Enlightenment philosophers, she never forgot she was in charge.

- After a peasant uprising in 1773, gave Russian nobles complete power over their serfs, taking away any hope of freedom.
Catherine the Great

- Catherine also expanded the Russian empire
- Gained control of the northern shores of the Black Sea
- Also took over part of Poland.