The Enlightenment

How have the ideas of the Enlightenment influenced modern government?

PREVIEW

Carefully analyze the image your teacher is projecting. As you discuss the questions below with your class, record your answers after each one.

• List four interesting details you see in this image.
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 
  4. 

• What conclusions can you draw about the people at this gathering? Give one piece of evidence to support each conclusion.

• What kinds of ideas might people discuss at a gathering like this, and why?

• In what ways might these people spread the ideas discussed at this gathering?
Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

- Enlightenment
- social contract
- despotism
- constitutional monarchy
- natural rights
- religious tolerance
- bill of rights
- separation of powers

Section 2

1. How are the ideas of the Scientific Revolution similar to the ideas of the Enlightenment?

2. In what ways did the Renaissance and the Reformation influence the Enlightenment?

3. Why did most Enlightenment philosophers continue to believe in God?

4. The new ideas of the Enlightenment clashed with some previously held beliefs about religion, morality, and government. Read the old beliefs shown on the T-chart below. Then write in the new ideas that developed during the Enlightenment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Belief</th>
<th>New Idea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Christian faith was based largely on trust in the Bible as God’s word.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Ideas about right and wrong were based on religious teachings.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kings had a divine right to rule.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If your class is doing the activity for this lesson, complete each item for Sections 3 to 7. (Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip item 4 for each section.)

Section 3
1. What were the major influences on Thomas Hobbes's thinking?

2. What major political arguments did Hobbes present in *Leviathan*?

3. What was Hobbes’s lasting impact on government?

4. Hobbes was Enlightenment thinker _______. He said:

Section 4
1. What were the major influences on John Locke’s thinking?

2. What major political arguments did Locke present in *Two Treatises of Government*?

3. What was Locke’s lasting impact on government?

4. Locke was Enlightenment thinker _______. He said:
Section 5
1. What were the major influences on Baron de Montesquieu’s thinking?

2. What major political arguments did Montesquieu present in *The Spirit of Laws*?

3. What was Montesquieu’s lasting impact on government?

4. Montesquieu was Enlightenment thinker _______. He said:

Section 6
1. What were the major influences on Voltaire’s thinking?

2. What major political arguments did Voltaire present in his writings?

3. What was Voltaire’s lasting impact on government?

4. Voltaire was Enlightenment thinker _______. He said:
Section 7
1. What were the major beliefs that influenced Cesare Beccaria’s thinking?

2. What major political arguments did Beccaria present in *On Crimes and Punishments*?

3. What was Beccaria’s lasting impact on government?

4. Beccaria was Enlightenment thinker _______. He said:

Section 8
1. Who were some of Europe’s “enlightened despots”? What types of reforms did these rulers introduce?

2. Which Enlightenment thinkers’ ideas were reflected in the following U.S. documents? List the name of the Enlightenment thinker(s), and what ideas of his were included in the document. (For example, Voltaire: free speech.)

- Declaration of Independence:

- Constitution:

- Bill of Rights:
Section 9
How did each of the following women contribute to the Enlightenment?

- Madame Geoffrin:

- Abigail Adams:

- Olympe de Gouges:

- Mary Wollstonecraft:

PROCESSING

Find a newspaper article or photograph that you think represents an idea of one of the Enlightenment thinkers you studied. Highlight or circle any specific parts of the article or photograph that relate to the Enlightenment idea. Glue the article onto a separate sheet of paper, and then complete the following statement beneath your article or photo:

This article or photograph represents (name of thinker)’s Enlightenment idea of (idea) because
Timeline Skills
Analyse the timeline in your book. Also think about what you have learned. Then answer the following questions.

1. How many years after Columbus reached the Americas did Spain finish conquering the Aztec and Inca empires?

2. In what century did the prices of Asian goods drop in Europe, and what caused the drop?

3. Name three new scientific tools that were developed during the Scientific Revolution.

4. Why was Copernicus’s heliocentric theory significant?

5. What was important about the English defeat of the Spanish Armada?

6. How did salons help to shape and spread the ideas of the Enlightenment?

7. Which scientist’s important astronomical discoveries put him in conflict with the Catholic Church?

8. Why were Newton’s laws of motion and gravity important?

9. What was Locke’s argument about government?

10. What political upheavals resulted from Enlightenment ideas? When did each happen?
Critical Thinking
Use the timeline and the lessons to answer the following questions.

11. Which theory, law, discovery, or invention during the Scientific Revolution do you think was most significant, and why?

12. When the newly independent United States of America wrote its Constitution in 1787, one of the key features of the new government was the establishment of an executive branch, a legislative branch, and a judicial branch. What Enlightenment philosophy does that represent, and which European thinker proposed it?

13. Compare and contrast exploration by Portugal, Spain, and England during the Age of Exploration.

14. If you could add three more events to this timeline, which would they be? List each event, and explain why you think it is important enough to add to the timeline.
   a.
   b.
   c.