Introduction to the Enlightenment

1. Explain how science led to the Enlightenment.

2. Compare the ideas of Hobbes and Locke.

3. Identify the beliefs and contributions of the *philosophes*.

4. Summarize how economic thinking changed during this time.
What effects did the Enlightenment philosophers have on government and society?

The spread of Enlightenment philosophers’ ideas sparked changes in governments and society throughout Europe.

Encouraged by ideas such as natural law and social contracts, people challenged the structure of governments and society in existence since the Middle Ages.
By the early 1700s, European thinkers felt that nothing was beyond the reach of the human mind. The discoveries of the Scientific Revolution of the 1500s and 1600s convinced educated Europeans of the power of human reason. Natural law governed forces such as gravity and magnetism.
Could human reason be used to better understand social, economic, and political problems?

• Enlightenment thinkers tried to apply natural Law to the study of human behavior and society

• This approach had been used to understand natural forces such as gravity and magnetism.

• This approach led to a revolution in thinking, the Enlightenment.
Thomas Hobbes and John Locke tried to tackle society’s structure using reason. Their ideas were extremely influential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas Hobbes’ <em>Leviathan</em></th>
<th>People created <strong>social contracts</strong> because only a <strong>powerful government</strong> could ensure an organized society.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Locke’ <em>Two Treatises of Government</em></td>
<td>Only governments with <strong>limited power</strong>, which are accepted by all citizens, protected the <strong>natural rights</strong> of the people.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Thomas Hobbes)
In France, the *philosophes* applied the methods of science to understand society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diderot</td>
<td>Edited and published the <em>Encyclopedia important because it spread Enlightenment ideas.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltaire</td>
<td>Defended freedom of thought through his writings</td>
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</table>
| Montesquieu | Published *The Spirit of Laws*  
 | | Advocated the idea of separation of powers in government                   |
| Rousseau  | Wrote *The Social Contract*  
 | | Promoted the idea that people in their natural state were essentially good |
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Montesquieu & Voltaire)
Not everyone agreed with the *philosophes*.

Some women protested that “free and equal” did not apply to women. Mary Wollstonecraft, a writer, called for equal education for girls and boys. The idea of women’s equality was ridiculed and sharply condemned.

Other critics of the *philosophes* included the French government and the Catholic Church.
Enlightenment Ideas Spread
(Voltiare)
French thinkers known as physiocrats focused on economic reforms based on natural law. Physiocrats:

- Rejected mercantilism, the idea that government regulation is needed to produce a favorable trade balance.
- Advocated *laissez faire* policies, which suggested that business should operate with little or no government interference.
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Rousseau)
The Scottish economist Adam Smith wrote *The Wealth of Nations*.

- The free market should regulate business activity.
- All economic factors were related to the market forces of supply and demand.

Although Smith supported laissez faire, he also believed that the government had a duty to protect society, administer justice, and provide public works.
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Voltaire’s Tomb and Château)
The Spread of Enlightenment Ideals

- Diderot's Encyclopedia
- Small pamphlets
- Salons
- Courts of monarchs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinkers’ Works and Ideas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hobbes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <em>Leviathan</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Presented concept of social contract in which people give up their rights for an organized society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Locke</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <em>Two Treatises of Government</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- People form governments to protect their natural rights of life, liberty, and property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Government has obligation to those it governs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Montesquieu</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- <em>The Spirit of the Laws</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Separation of powers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Checks and balances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voltaire</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Criticized powerful institutions for being unjust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Attacked corrupt government and inequality</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Supported freedom of speech</td>
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# Thinkers’ works and Ideas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thinker</th>
<th>Work(s)</th>
<th>Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rousseau</td>
<td><em>The Social Contract</em></td>
<td>• Despised political and economic oppression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Society is restrictive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Advocated the will of the majority and the common good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wollstonecraft</td>
<td><em>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Equal education for girls and boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td><em>The Wealth of Nations</em></td>
<td>• Laissez faire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Free market should regulate business.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mary Wollstonecraft & Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly
Terms and People

- natural law
  - rules discoverable by reason
- Thomas Hobbes
  - seventeenth-century thinker who wrote *Leviathan*
- John Locke
  - seventeenth-century thinker who wrote *Two Treatises of Government*
- social contract
  - Hobbes’ proposal for an organized society in which people enter into an agreement accepting a powerful government in exchange for their freedom
• natural rights
  – Locke’s view of the rights belonging to all people at birth, including the right to life, liberty, and property

• philosophs
  – French thinkers who believed that the use of reason could lead to reforms of government, law, and society

• Montesquieu
  – *philosophe* who believed in protecting liberty by dividing the various functions and powers of government among three branches; proposed a system of checks and balances

• Voltaire
  – *philosophe* who used his writings to fight ignorance, superstition, and intolerance
Terms and People (continued)

- Diderot
  - *philosophe* who edited and published the *Encyclopedia*

- Rousseau
  - *philosophe* who wrote *The Social Contract*

- laissez faire
  - an economic system allowing business to operate with little or no government interference

- Adam Smith
  - author of *The Wealth of Nations*; proponent of the free–market system
Impact of the Enlightenment

1. Identify the roles of censorship and salons in the spread of new ideas.

2. Describe how the Enlightenment affected the arts and literature.

3. Understand how *philosophes* influenced enlightened despots.

4. Explain why Enlightenment ideas were slow to reach most Europeans.
As Enlightenment ideas spread across Europe, what cultural and political changes took place?

The Enlightenment brought cultural changes as writers, artists, and musicians spread new ideas.

Even absolute monarchs in Europe granted greater freedoms in their realms to become enlightened despots.
From France, the heart of the Enlightenment, ideas spread across Europe and beyond.

These new ideas created challenges to the rulers of the day. People saw that reform was necessary to achieve a just society.
Most government and church authorities felt they had a sacred duty to defend the old order. The most common defense was through censorship of writers and books. Writers fought back by disguising their ideas in fiction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voltaire’s Candide</th>
<th>Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels</th>
<th>Montesquieu’s Persian Letters</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>exposed corruption and hypocrisy.</td>
<td>satirized eighteenth-century England.</td>
<td>mocked French society.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ideas spread through **salons** as well as books and pamphlets.

In the 1600s a group of noblewomen in Paris began inviting a few friends to their homes for poetry readings. By the 1700s, some middle-class women began holding salons as well.

The most respected salons hosted writers and musicians such as Diderot and Mozart.
The arts evolved along with the new ideas of the Enlightenment.

- In the age of Louis XIV, courtly art and architecture were grand and opulent, reflecting the lives of saints or glorious battles.

- This was the era of the baroque style.
Baroque and Rococo styles
Baroque and Rococo styles
Rococo styles
As in art, music evolved from baroque to rococo to the style known as “classical” the new musical style of the Enlightenment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Composer</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johann Sebastian Bach</td>
<td>• Created religious works for organ and choirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Frideric Handel</td>
<td>• Wrote pieces for King George I, as well as 30 operas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz Joseph Haydn</td>
<td>• Developed the string quartet and the symphony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart</td>
<td>• Created operas, symphonies, and religious music that defined the new style of composition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enlightenment Ideas Spread
(Mozart)
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Bach)
Enlightenment Ideas Spread (Handel)
The court of Louis XV was much less formal, which was reflected in the rococo style. Artists moved away from heavy splendor to light, elegant, and charming subjects. This style was criticized by the philosophes as superficial, but it was very popular among the upper and middle classes.
Literature developed new forms and readers by the 1700s.

- Middle-class readers liked stories about their own times told in straightforward language.

- Thus began an outpouring of novels, long works of prose fiction.

- *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe, was an exciting tale about a sailor shipwrecked on a tropical island.
Absolute monarchs who adopted or accepted Enlightenment ideas were known as enlightened despots.

Monarchs who applied enlightened ideas to their governments included:

- **Frederick the Great** of Prussia
- **Joseph II** of Austria
- **Catherine the Great** of Russia
Joseph II
- Worked to improve peasants’ ways of life
- Continued in his mother’s footsteps to modernize Austria’s government

Frederick the Great
- More efficient Prussian government
- Tolerated religious differences
- Despised torture

Catherine the Great
- Russian law and government reforms
- Abolished torture
- Criticized the institution of serfdom

Major Enlightened Despots
The ideas of the *philosophes* spread to the ruling classes and convinced some of them that reform was necessary.

- **Frederick the Great (Prussia)**
  - Reduced use of torture
  - Allowed a free press
  - Tolerated religious differences

- **Catherine the Great (Russia)**
  - Abolished torture
  - Established religious tolerance
  - Granted nobles a charter of rights
  - Criticized the institution of serfdom

- **Joseph II (Austria)**
  - Modernized Austria’s government
  - Supported religious equality for Protestants and Jews
  - Ended censorship
  - Abolished serfdom
  - Often traveled in disguise to learn about his people
Although these rulers implemented reforms, they would not give up their own power.

- Frederick the Great desired a stronger monarchy and more power for himself.

- Catherine the Great refused to give up power but greatly expanded the Russian empire.

- Joseph II implemented many changes, but most were canceled after his death.
Most Europeans’ lives were untouched by the enlightened cultural movements. Were illiterate and incapable of understanding the intellectual and artistic evolution occurring.

• By the late 1700s ideas about equality and social justice reached peasant villages.

• These ideas sowed the seeds for the political upheaval of the 1800s.
Terms and People

- censorship
  - restrictions on access to ideas or information

- salons
  - informal social gatherings at which writers, artists, *philosophes*, and others exchanged ideas

- baroque
  - ornate style of art and architecture popular in the 1600s and 1700s

- rococo
  - personal, elegant style of art and architecture made popular during the mid-1700s
Terms and People (continued)

- enlightened despot
  - an absolute ruler who uses power to bring about political and social change

- Frederick the Great
  - king of Prussia from 1740 to 1786, an enlightened despot

- Catherine the Great
  - became empress of Russia in 1762; believed in the Enlightenment ideas of equality and liberty

- Joseph II
  - the most radical of the enlightened despots; ruled Austria and worked for religious equality and an end to censorship