The Enlightenment Review Questions
What was the Enlightenment?
A philosophical movement of the 18th century (1700s), in which philosophers began to apply **reason** and the **scientific method** to all aspects of **society** – government, religion, economics, and education.
What movement influenced the Enlightenment?
The Scientific Revolution paved the way for the Enlightenment.

• Scientists discovered laws that governed nature.
• Philosophers began to look for laws that governed human behavior.
• Philosophers began to apply reason and the scientific method to all aspects of society – government, religion, economics, and education.
Which two English philosophers began the Enlightenment?
The Enlightenment was started by two English political thinkers: Hobbes and Locke.
Which English philosopher believed that the best form of government was absolute monarchy?
Thomas Hobbes
Why did Thomas Hobbes believe that absolute monarchy was the best form of government?
Thomas Hobbes believed that people were selfish and wicked; therefore needed to be controlled.
What book did Thomas Hobbes write?
Leviathan
What kind of social contract did Thomas Hobbes believe in?
Hobbes believed that government was a contract between the ruler and the people. People gave up **ALL** of their rights in exchange for protection.
Which Enlightenment philosopher believed in self-government and that people had natural rights?
John Locke
What book did John Locke write?
Two Treatise of Government
Who were 3 French Philosophes?
Which enlightenment philosopher believed in separation of church and state?
Voltaire

“I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

Separation of Church and State
Which enlightenment philosopher believed in separation of powers and checks and balances?
You better check yourself!
What book did Montesquieu write?
The Spirit of Laws
Which enlightenment philosopher believed that direct democracy was the best form of government and that everyone was equal?
Rousseau
What book did Rousseau write?
Rousseau wrote “The Social Contract.”

You have got to read this! It is not like Hobbes’ version of a social contract. Mine gives people way more rights!

“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains”
Who were two important women philosophers?
Mary Astell and Mary Wollstonecraft
What book did Mary Astell write?
Mary Astell wrote
“A Serious Proposal to the Ladies.”

“If absolute sovereignty be not necessary in a state, how comes it to be so in a family?...If all men are born free, how is it that all women are born slaves?”
What book did Mary Wollstonecraft write?
Mary Wollstonecraft wrote “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman.”

“Let women share rights and she will emulate the virtues of men; for she must grow more perfect when emancipated.”
Why is the Enlightenment Important?
Democracies today are a result of the Enlightenment.

Full democracies are in green, flawed in yellow, hybrid regimes in orange and authoritarian regimes in red. Microstates and countries for which there was no data (Somalia) are in grey:
“among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”

John Locke said that people were born with the right to life, liberty, and property
Enlightenment thinkers challenged the theory of divine right and the union of church and state.

We do not believe in divine right. Rulers don’t get their power from God. They get it from us, the people!
The American Revolution

The French Revolution
The U.S. Constitution

The Constitution sets up three branches of Government, just as Montesquieu recommended.
The Bill of Rights: First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States,

begun and held at the City of New York, on

Wednesday, the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

...
• religious tolerance,
• a belief in progress,
• the world becoming more secular
• the rise of individualism