**Enlightenment (1700s): Changing Views of Government**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A. The Enlightenment**

The new ways of thinking developed during the Scientific Revolution began to extend into other areas of life beyond that of just science. Scholars and philosophers began to re-think the old ideas about religion, economics, and education. This period was called the Enlightenment (1700s).

*Why was this period called the Enlightenment? (Define Enlightenment too!)*

**B. Philosophes**

In France, these thinkers were known as “Philosophes”. For the most part, they were not professional thinkers, but people who believed that it was their duty to find new ways to understand the world. These thinkers were optimistic and believed that they lived in an exciting era of great change for humanity. Five concepts formed the core of their beliefs:

Reason- Enlightened thinkers believed truth could be discovered through reason or logical thinking.

Example- a philosophe would believe the sky is blue not because somebody told them but because they observed it with their own eyes.

Nature- The philosophes believed that what was natural was also good and reasonable.

Example-a philosophe would not believe in superstition because it couldn’t be proven.

Happiness- The philosophers rejected the medieval idea that people should suffer now so they can get into heaven. They believed people should enjoy their lives.

Progress- The philosophes believed that society and humankind could improve.

Liberty- The philosophes believed that all people were born with natural rights and freedoms.

Example- people have the right to property and happiness.

*Philosophes:*

*How would you describe (summarize) these beliefs?* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Which of these beliefs do you believe is the most important today? Why?*

**C. Regents Vocabulary**

Point of view is the author’s role in an event. For example, the author’s level of wealth or race. You can answer a POV question by following this template: The author is (background) and believes .

Intended audience is the group of people for which a speech or book was written for. An example of an intended audience is the population of people targeted by a new movie. Hint: YOU are never the intended audience. Typically the documents we read, were written well before you were born.

*What strategies can you use to determine the author/narrator’s point of view?*

**D. Philosophes**

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| *Philosophe* | *Answer to Questions* |
| **John Locke**  ***(Two Treatises of Government)*** |  |
| **Baron de Montesquieu**  **(*The Spirit of Laws)*** |  |
| **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**  ***(The Social Contract)*** |  |
| **Mary Wollstonecraft**  **(*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman)*** |  |
| **William Wilberforce**  **(Speech to Parliament)** |  |
| **Cesare Beccaria**  **(*On Crimes and Punishment)*** |  |