

# Enlightenment

(1600s — 1700s)

## Age of Reason



# Do Now Activity

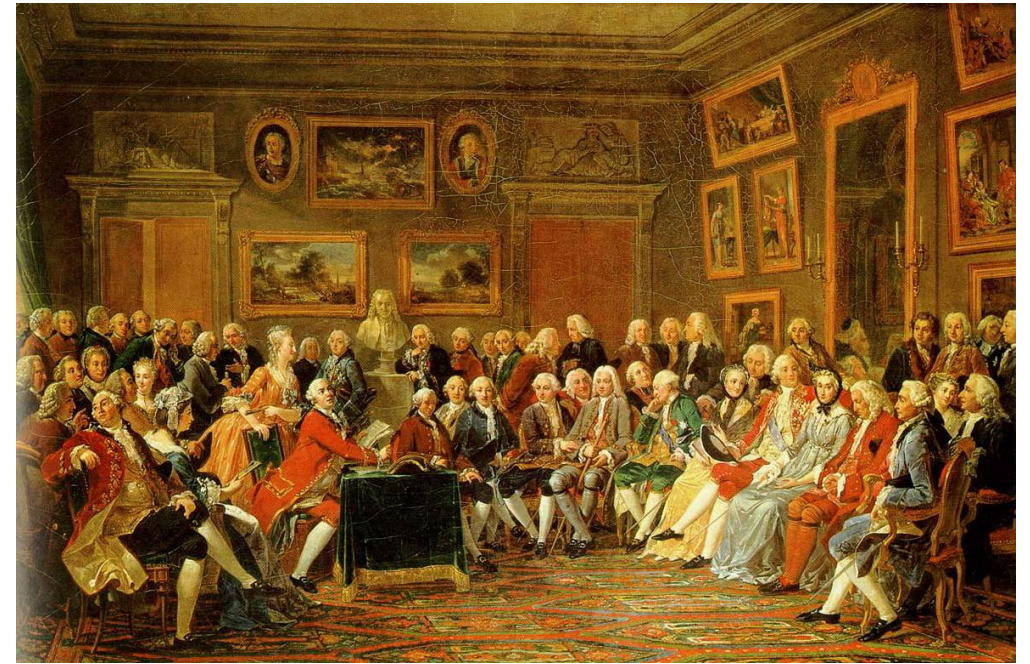


## Journal #7

Do you think governments are formed to protect us from ourselves (nature) or to better the community (nurture)? Or both?

# French Enlightenment

- The height of the Enlightenment was in France during the mid-1700s.
- The French Enlightenment thinkers during this time were called **philosophes**.
- They believed that **reason** can be applied to all aspects of life.
- Discussion took place in **salons**





# Five Core Concepts of Philosophes

Does this sound familiar?



<b>Reason</b>	Truth can be discovered through reason or logic
<b>Nature</b>	What was natural was good and reasonable
<b>Happiness</b>	Being secular; living by nature's laws will grant happiness
<b>Progress</b>	Society and people can improve
<b>Liberty</b>	Government should be for the people; right to freedom

# Voltaire



- Critical of clergy, aristocracy, and government
- Went to jail twice
- Exiled to England for more than two years

“I do not agree with a word you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.”

- Advocated freedom of speech and religion and separation of church and state

Where do you see this today?

## 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment!!!

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

# Montesquieu



- Wary of power
  - Thought Britain was the best government in the world
  - Believed separation of powers would keep any one from gaining too much power
  - “Power should be able to check power.”
- 
- Advocated separation of powers in government

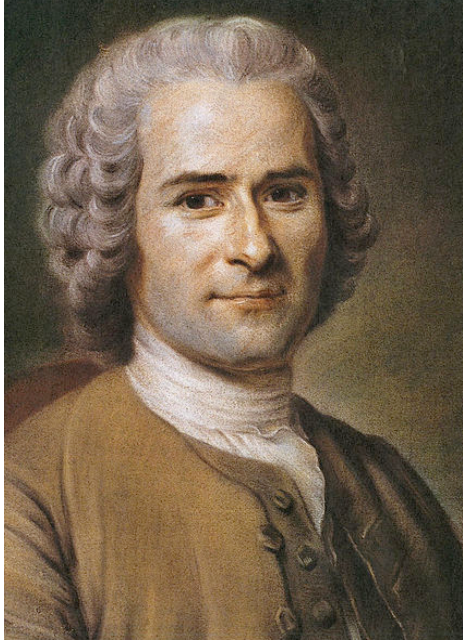
**Where do you see this today?**

**Checks &  
Balances**

**Three  
Branches**

**Executive  
Legislative  
Judicial**

# Rousseau



- Believed good government was freely formed by people and guided by the “general will” (direct democracy)
- People give up some rights in exchange — social contract
- “Man is born free, and everywhere else he is in chains.”
- Ideas more popular with French Revolution

- Argued against titles of nobility

Where do you see this today?

**U.S. Constitution**

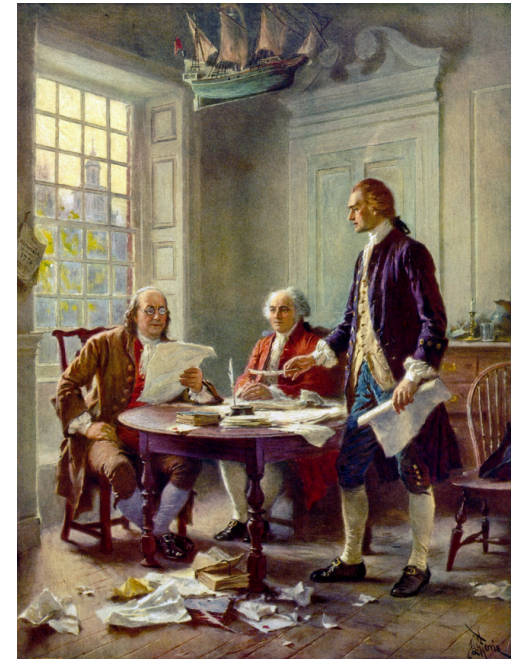
**Article I, Section 9**

“No title of nobility shall be granted by the United States: and no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.”



# Impacts

- A better society is possible with reason
- Increase of secular, or worldly, outlook
  - Less emphasis on religion
  - Separate religion from government
  - Tolerance of all religions
- Promotion of the individual
  - Individualism
  - Rely on one's own ability





**What were the roles  
of women in society  
up until that time?**

# Enlightenment Ideas on Women and Roles

- Mixed ideas about women
- Rousseau thought women's education should teach them how to be better wives and mothers
- Women helped spread Enlightenment ideas in salons

## Mary Wollstonecraft

- A Vindication of the Rights of Women (1792)
- Believed women are not inferior to men
- It is believed that way because women lacked education
- Men and women are equal
- Argued for women's equality with men



# Were the Enlightenment ideas new and innovative?

Separation of Powers



Ancient Rome and Athens  
had three branches

Women's equality



Women in Ancient Sparta  
could vote

Truth can be discovered  
through reason and logic



Socrates and Aristotle

Religious freedom



Emperor Constantine granted  
it through Edict of Milan

Popular sovereignty



Athens had direct democracy.  
Rome had a republic.