

Study Guide
The Enlightenment test November 30
6th grade
November 2017

KNOW ALL VOCABULARY WORDS

Chapter 1 Isaac Newton

What was another name for the Enlightenment?

- Age of Reason
- Changed history and created the beginning of the modern world we live in today
- It brought revolution in science, math and government

Why is it called the Enlightenment?

- It is a period in history in Europe in the 1600s and 1700s where people all over Europe believed that the darkness of the past was giving way to light
- darkness=ignorance, superstition and unproven beliefs
- light=knowledge

PRIOR TO ENLIGHTENMENT

- Kings ruled by “**divine right**”- the belief that a monarch’s right to the throne was granted by God. Everyone owed obedience to the king. The king did as he pleased.
- In Western Europe, the **upper-class** lived in a palace or manor
- **Lower-classes** had a much different life:
The peasants, the workers and the soldiers- life was filled with suffering and hard work
- **Middle class or BURGERS** was a new middle class of people that were not as rich as the nobles or as poor as the peasants. These were destined to be the leaders of the Enlightenment. As towns and cities grew during this time, merchants, bankers, traders and skilled craft workers thrived.
- The middle class is still called “bourgeoisie” (boor jawh ZEE) from the French word bourgeois, meaning “town dweller”

Isaac Newton was the greatest scientist in history-

- Discovered the laws of gravitation and motion, invented calculus, revealed the secrets of light and color
- He relied on his ability to observe things and to think about what he observed
- He spent two years at his home while he waited out the epidemic of the plague to be over- this is when he discovered gravity
- Through experiments and observation he developed laws of motion
- Knowledge Through Reason
 - Newton’s book Mathematical Principles explained the law of gravity and laws of motion in mathematical terms
 - He inspired confidence in science and reason
 - Became the first scientist ever knighted by an English queen

Chapter 2 Rene Descartes (ruh NAY day KAHRT)

Father of modern philosophy

- Was a soldier
- Kept notes about the workings of the universe and how we know what we know
- Studied law but did not enjoy it so he joined the army at 22
- It was in Holland that he became fascinated with mathematics
- Devout Catholic but placed high value on human reason
- Used reason to explore the human condition and to explain his belief in God
- Returned to Holland which became the center of the European printing industry and where new ideas thrived

Discourse on Method

- Descartes wrote this book and bases his thinking on the idea that there is only one thing in the world we can be sure of - our thoughts and therefore our own experience.
- **Cogito ergo sum means I think, therefore I am.**
- **He set out to questions everything else in the universe- “It is not enough just to have a fine mind; the main thing is to learn how to apply it properly.”**

Chapter 3 Thomas Hobbes aka Mr. Sunshine

Hobbes met Descartes in France while traveling

Each time he would return to England, he came back to political unrest due to problems between the king and Parliament

- The Stuarts- ruling monarchs in those days believed in the divine right of kings and did not want to grant Parliament any lawmaking powers
- This struggle went on for decades
- Escaped to Paris and after English Parliament seized control and executed King Charles I, Hobbes tutored the king's son, Prince Charles who sought safety in Paris which would one day protect Hobbes.

Hobbes is Heard

- Published *Leviathan* - argued that government should be powerful, like the leviathan that is described in the Bible- a sea monster, an all-powerful ruler of the seas
- He insisted that humans' "state of nature" are naturally cruel, greedy and selfish and their only desires are to feel pleasure and to avoid pain
- Thought that if people were left their own devices, they could not be trusted to make choices that would benefit the entire community or even preserve order.
- Was a pessimist which led him to believe in a strong government
- His solution was a "social contract"- they must give up their individual freedoms and turn them over to a powerful leader or assembly
- He proposed that strong leaders, strict laws and stiff punishments would protect selfish individuals from making war on each other- society would be best served by an absolute monarchy- an all-powerful ruler.
- Argued that real human freedom is the ability to live peacefully without being threatened by others- Since people are naturally selfish and cruel, there must be strong laws to protect us from each other
- Hobbes believed that a forceful government does not limit a person's liberty, but from keeping people from their worst impulses that actually makes liberty possible.
- Hobbes' authoritarian model of how society should be organized was not popular

Chapter 4 John Locke- The Real Mr. Sunshine

Locke believed

- people, given the right experiences would be reasonable and moral
- That all people are born with certain natural rights including the right to “life, liberty, and property
- That it was the government’s duty to preserve the rights of the citizens
- Declared that if a government failed to protect the natural rights of its people then those people have the right to overthrow the government- suggested revolution
- Fled to Holland when he was wanted for treason- King James heard rumors that Locke had sided with Parliament in its struggles against the Stuarts (the first kings of the United Kingdom)
- Became supporter of Prince Williams of Orange and was an influence in the Glorious Revolution- there was no violence or bloodshed- England would never rule England without the consent of Parliament again
- The English people had overthrown one ruler and replaced him with another ruler who respected their natural rights

Chapter 5 Enlightenment in France

Bastille

- A prison for those who disagreed with government
- There was no freedom of speech

Montesquieu

- Observed, studied and reasoned
- Saw most of the people suffering poverty and injustice
- Saw that a strict social order enforced by the monarch and clergy allowed no chance for change
- Wrote and published *The Persian Letters* under the pseudonym Usbek and Rica, two travelers from Persia- it was a collection of their letters home
- Even though it was pure fiction, readers recognized the criticisms of the French ruling class as true
- Wrote in another book, *Spirit of Laws* that a country must limit the powers of its ruler and any one branch of government- this would be “separation of powers”
- Fiercely attacked slavery- wrote that enslaving a person because of color was not a reasonable act. It was no more logical than enslaving someone because of “a long or short face” and that slavery was the most shocking violation of nature
- Sought peaceful, modest reforms to give people happier lives

Voltaire

- Wrote about society, greedy officials, lazy nobles, and evil institutions from the Bastille
- Fled to England and studied the philosophy of John Locke and the science of Newton
- He felt that England with its limited monarchy, had the answers

Chapter 6 Enlightenment in Action

Jefferson and Locke- similar ideas

- Thomas Jefferson began the Declaration of Independence by stating that “all men” are entitled to certain natural rights including “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” - Locke expressed that people are born with natural rights to “life, liberty and property.”

- Locke declared that a government has a duty to preserve its citizens' natural rights. If they're not protected then citizens should change or replace the government- compared to the passage from the Declaration of Independence on page 96 of your text. UNDERSTAND THIS CONCEPT- IT WILL BE ON THE TEST
- Both Locke and Jefferson described a government that **gets its power from the people** -this concept led to the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and The American Revolution of 1776

Benjamin Franklin: The American Philosopher

- Wrote *Poor Richard's Almanack*-
A series of publications- a cross between an encyclopedia and a journal aiming to help people improve themselves
- Also helped Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence
- Experimented with electricity and invented the lightning rod
- Invented bifocal glasses
- Was a politician and diplomat- traveled to France seeking support for America's Revolution

An Enlightened Government

- James Madison of Virginia was a delegate to America's Constitutional Convention and was considered the "father of the Constitution"
- Studied the works of John Locke
- Worked to create a document that aimed to "promote the general welfare"
- Montesquieu inspired the concept of that in order to protect individual freedoms...
 - a country must limit the power of its ruler
 - Every branch of government must answer to the other branches
 - The power of the executive whether it be king or president, must be balanced by the lawmakers of the legislative branch and the courts of the judicial branch
 - His ideas in action are our country's system of checks and balances that keeps any one person or any one arm of government from gaining too much power
 - Also inspired dividing powers between the national government and the states

Action!

The United States Constitution became the law of the land in 1789

- Outlined a government that gave more power to its people than any other in the world
- European Enlightenment encouraged dreams of a freer society and a government based on reason, the idea of a government created by the people for the purpose of serving the people.