**Effects of the Enlightenment on the World**

**“Enlightened Monarchs”:**

* Most of Europe ruled by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ monarchs
* Receptive to Enlightenment ideas
* Instituted new laws and practices
* Enlightened Monarchs
	+ Frederick II, Prussia
	+ Catherine the Great, Russia
	+ Maria Theresa, Austria
	+ Joseph II, Holy Roman Empire
	+ Gustav III, Sweden
	+ Napoleon I, France
* *During the time of the Enlightenment, most of the countries in continental Europe were ruled by monarchs who exercised absolute power. Many of these monarchs read Enlightenment works and were intrigued by the new ideas thinkers put forth. The philosophes thought that an “enlightened” monarch could implement their ideas, which would result in better laws and a general improvement in the quality of life for all citizens. Some thinkers did end up corresponding with or advising European monarchs and eventually influenced many to put a range of Enlightenment ideals into practice.*

**The American Revolution:**

* Influence of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Montesquieu
* The Declaration of Independence
	+ Written by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence shows the influence of Enlightenment ideas—particularly those of Locke and Montesquieu.
* Jefferson drew upon Locke’s concepts of natural rights and equality in the “state of nature” when he wrote, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Jefferson also employed Locke’s conclusion that if a government denied citizens their natural rights, the people had the right to change the government. He stated, “when a long train of abuses and usurpations…evinces a design to reduce them [the people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

**The U.S. Constitution:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of powers
* Checks and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *The framers of the Constitution essentially took Montesquieu’s concept of separation of powers and put it into practice, creating a tripartite government that split authority between executive, legislative, and judicial branches. They also instituted measures designed to ensure that no one branch would become too powerful. Popularly known as “checks and balances,” these measures included things like the president’s veto power, the fact that only Congress can declare war, and the provision that federal and Supreme Court judges hold their terms for life.*

**The French Revolution:**

* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Revolution
	+ *The French strongly supported the colonies against Britain during the American Revolution. Hundreds of French officers (most notably, the Marquis de Lafayette) who participated in the Revolution were influenced by how the Americans applied Enlightenment ideas on government both in waging the war and in creating a new nation.*
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_General
	+ *In 1789, King Louis XVI decided to place a tax on land, an idea that the nobility and the Church—who had both been exempt from taxation up to this time—greatly disliked. They fought Louis by claiming that a new tax could only be approved at a meeting of a body known as the Estates General, which represented all three of France’s social “estates”: the Church, the nobility, and the rest of the population. The Third Estate, which made up 98% of France’s population, had become increasingly dissatisfied with its lack of political power. Middle-class citizens at this time functioned more or less as the leaders of the Third Estate, and had been influenced by Enlightenment ideas regarding things like liberty, equality, and rights. They had come to want a voice in government, and at the meeting of the Estates General, they demanded a constitution in return for approving the tax. A chain of events was set in motion that eventually led to the overthrow and execution of the king: this was the French Revolution.*

**The Declaration of the Rights of Man:**

* Adopted by National Assembly in 1789
	+ *In 1789, the National Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man. This document clearly reflected Enlightenment ideals related to liberty, property, natural rights, and the ending of oppression. For example, the first three articles of the Declaration stated:*
	+ *“Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.”*
	+ *“The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.”*
	+ *“The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.”*
* “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité”
	+ *The influence of the Enlightenment on the French Revolution can be seen most clearly in its slogan: “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité”—“Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.”*

**The Legacy of the Enlightenment:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *As stated at the beginning, the Enlightenment marks the intellectual beginning of the modern world. Enlightenment principles have become the basis of constitutions and forms of government for many countries. Universal suffrage and equal rights legislation are a direct legacy of the Enlightenment. Finally, Enlightenment thought led many countries to establish systems of free public education and put an end to the idea that education was only a privilege for the upper classes.*

**Frederick the Great (ruled 1740–1786):**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruler
* Had a strong interest in Enlightenment works
* Induced Voltaire to come to Prussia
* *Frederick II of Prussia, often called “Frederick the Great,” was fascinated with Enlightenment philosophy. He also was drawn to the arts: not only did he strongly support them during his reign, he also composed poems, essays, and several pieces of music. Frederick also loved all things French: he was such a Francophile that he preferred to speak and write in French rather than German. He greatly admired Voltaire and invited him to come to Prussia as his personal guest. Voltaire accepted and ended up living in Berlin and Potsdam for two years.*
* Wanted to make Prussia a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ state
* Reforms
* *When Frederick ascended to the throne, Prussia had a strong military but remained rather backward in its customs and government. Frederick wanted to transform Prussia into a modern state and introduced many reforms that drew upon Enlightenment ideas. He granted religious freedom, improved education, systematized the government to make it more efficient, simplified many laws, and outlawed torture.*
* *Though most historians do regard Frederick as “enlightened,” he only went so far in implementing Enlightenment ideas. For example, his support of the nobility and the fact that he made no attempt to abolish serfdom demonstrate the limitations of his devotion to Enlightenment ideals.*

**Catherine the Great (ruled 1762–1796):**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruler
* Well-versed in Enlightenment works
* “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” Russia
* *Catherine II of Russia, often called “Catherine the Great,” was also attracted to Enlightenment ideas. She immersed herself in the works of leading thinkers, focusing in particular on the French philosophes. She corresponded with such notables as Voltaire and Diderot and also composed several comedies, works of fiction, and memoirs.*
* *During her reign, she made determined efforts to “westernize” Russia. In the cultural arena, she brought in several leading European intellectuals in order to introduce the Russian elite to Enlightenment ideas. She also bought and imported a vast amount of art. Economically, she made attempts to get foreign capitalists to invest in Russia; she also championed efforts to modernize industry and agriculture.*
* Domestic reforms
	+ *Domestically, Catherine focused a great deal of effort on reforming and improving Russian law and society. Inspired by the ideas of Enlightenment political thinkers like Montesquieu, she composed a plan to completely overhaul the legal code. Other measures she instituted promoted education, relaxed the censorship law, and restricted the use of torture.*
* Peasant revolt
	+ *In a 1773–1774 uprising, peasants in southwestern Russia revolted and took control of several forts and cities. Although Catherine’s army put down the insurgents before they progressed any further, the revolt had a major effect on any ideas she had on reforming serfdom. Instead, she reorganized local governments so that they would become more efficient and better able to control the serfs. In 1785, she enacted reforms that strengthened the nobility. She granted them absolute control of the serfs, freed them from taxation, confiscated church land and gave it to nobles, opened up new areas to serfdom, and made nobility hereditary. Thus, like Frederick, Catherine’s devotion to Enlightenment ideals only went so far.*

**Maria Theresa (ruled 1740–1780):**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruler
* Government reforms
* The serfs
* Son—Joseph II
* *Austrian ruler Maria Theresa started many reforms, but it was really her son, Joseph II, who is better characterized as an “enlightened” monarch.*
* *Maria Theresa centralized and streamlined many aspects of government and the military. In addition, in the later years of her rule she strove to improve the lives of serfs by reducing the power nobles had over them*

**Joseph II (ruled 1765–1790):**

* Ruled as coregent with his mother until 1780
* Joseph’s reforms
* Religious toleration
* Control over the Catholic Church
* Abolition of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* *Joseph ruled as co-regent with his mother beginning in 1765. Like other “enlightened” monarchs, he believed in the power of reason; however, the measures he undertook once he became sole ruler in 1780 were much more radical than those instituted by other monarchs. He encouraged religious toleration of Protestants and Jews; he reduced the power of the Catholic Church in Austria and brought it more firmly under his control; and, in his most controversial measure, he abolished serfdom and decreed that peasants be paid in cash for their labors. This cash proviso, however, infuriated the nobles and was even rejected by the peasants, who preferred a barter economy. Joseph’s power and health both waned in succeeding years, and his reforms didn’t last long after his death in 1790.*

**Gustav III (ruled 1771–1792):**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruler
* Read French Enlightenment works
	+ *King Gustav III of Sweden voraciously read most of the French works of the Enlightenment. He also wrote several plays and historical essays.*
* Reforms
	+ *Upon ascending to the throne, Gustav sought to rid the Swedish government of corruption and to institute measures in line with Enlightenment principles. Among his reforms: he issued an ordinance providing for freedom of the press, he abolished torture, he relaxed the poor law, he supported complete religious freedom, he encouraged free trade and removed export tolls, he shored up the country’s weakened currency, and he even invented a national costume that became quite popular for a while.*
* Absolutism
	+ *By the mid-1780s, however, Gustav began to shift away from a constitutional monarchy toward an absolutist one. He had grown weary of battling with the Swedish Parliament and the nobility. War with Russia later in the decade provided him with an excuse to increase his power at the expense of the legislature and the gentry. The 1789 Act of Unity and Security allowed him to overcome the nobility’s opposition to the war. He then drew up a new constitution that broadened royal authority; the lower classes, also fed up with the nobles, supported him. With his power assured, Gustav managed to lead his armies to a stunning victory over Russia. The Swedish people hailed him, but the aristocracy still held resentments. In 1792, a conspiracy of nobles hired an assassin to kill Gustav; Gustav was shot in the back and died some two weeks later.*

**Napoleon I:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ruler
* Military career
* Rise to power
* *Napoleon Bonaparte had been a soldier since the age of 16, after having spent his early years in a military academy. He came to prominence as a young officer in 1795 when he defended the National Convention against royalist forces. He rose quickly after that and eventually seized power by engineering a coup d’etat in 1799 that effectively ended the French Revolution; later, in 1804, he had himself crowned emperor.*
* *Napoleon wasn’t really an “enlightened monarch” like Frederick, Catherine, Joseph, Gustav, or Maria Theresa. Those rulers had avidly read important Enlightenment works and consciously sought to implement Enlightenment principles. Napoleon did not share this affinity for the works of Enlightenment writers; however, he did institute a number of reforms that were in line with Enlightenment ideals.*