The Enlightenment
(The Age of Reason)

What was the Enlightenment and how did it change the European idea of government?
What was the Enlightenment?

- What does “enlightenment” mean?
  - Higher understanding of a particular idea

- The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in Europe during the mid-to-late 1700’s
  - Changing ideas of government and society
How did the Enlightenment start?

- The Enlightenment grew out of the turmoil of Europe following the rise of the absolute monarchs.

- People were questioning long-held truths:
  - “divine right”
  - Religion
  - Science
  - Personal freedoms
What were some of the major themes that the Enlightenment stood for?

- The Enlightenment thinkers stood for a number of ideals:
  1. **Reason** = logical thinking
  2. **Progress** = faith in science
  3. **Liberty** = individual freedoms
  4. **Goodness** = Man by nature is good
  5. **Individuality** = One person can make a difference

- Main gathering place = Paris, France
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

**Thomas Hobbs**
- **Book** = *Leviathan* (1651)
  - People by nature are selfish & wicked
    - Needs a strong ruler to keep order
  - “social contract”
    - People give up some rights for order
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

John Locke
- Book = *Two Treatises of Government* (1690)
  - People learn best through experience / improvement
  - People are born with certain rights
    - “natural rights”
Was Thomas Jefferson a plagiarist?
Jefferson went through several drafts with the help of Franklin & Adams before finally putting together the finished document.

Drew inspiration for Enlightenment thinkers of the day, such as John Locke.
The Declaration is one of many documents on display at the National Archives as part of the “Charters of Freedom” exhibit.
Plagiarism is bad…especially in Philly
Mr. H’s Favorite Scene from National Treasure
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

Voltaire (*nor-de plum*)
- Francois Arouet
  - The “Jon Stewart” of this day (satire)
  - A champion for tolerance of others
    - Freedom / tolerance of all religions
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Book = *The Social Contract* (1762)
- A champion for individual freedoms
  - Everyone has a equal stake in government matters
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

Cesare Beccaria

- Book = *On Crime & Punishment* (1764)

- Criticized justice system in Europe & abusive punishment
  - Trial by jury
  - Anti-torture
  - Anti-capital punishment
Who were some of the major figures of the Enlightenment?

Mary Wollstonecraft

- Essay = *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792)

- One of the world’s first “feminists”
  - Pro-education
  - Women have a right to be involved in politics