**World History**

**Measurement Topic 1: The Development of the Modern Political Thought**

**Level 3: Learn it, study it**, and then test it

Learning Target 2: Who were some important leaders of the Enlightenment movement and what were some of their ideas?

**Directions:**

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd - Independently read the passage, and circle words you don’t know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

Between the 1600s and the 1800s new ideas and theories were spread around the world. This period in history is known as the age of **Enlightenment**, a time when philosophers (thinkers) began to question the traditional beliefs of the world and used **logistical thinking and reason** to make changes to the world. A few key people who were instrumental in creating and spreading of these new ideas were; John Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. The ideas and philosophies of these men later influenced

**John Locke** wrote the essay *Two Treatises of Government and an Essay on Human Understanding.* He *believed* everyone had **natural rights**; rights given to everyone from God at birth. These natural rights were life, liberty and property. He believed that people create governments and give the government power in order to protect their rights so if a government is not protecting the people’s rights, then the government can be overthrown (fired). His ideas led people to question traditions of following a monarch or a government blindly. His ideas encouraged people to question old traditional thinking and why their government did certain things. Locke’s ideas spread all over the world, leading people to question their governments.

French philosopher/thinker **Jean Jacques Rousseau** carried Locke’s ideas a bit further. He believed that a government should be formed by the consent of the people and that the people could then make their own laws. He felt that people were basically good so they would follow laws they created. His idea called a **social contract** stated that people give up certain rights to the government in exchange for protection. People enter into a social contract with their government to have their rights protected. In a social contract the people create governments, give the government its power, but only for the people’s protection. People’s rights would be protected by electing representatives to create laws to protect the people’s rights. This type of government is known as a **representative government**.

Baron de Montesquieu was a French lawyer, and political philosopher (thinker) who lived during the Age of Enlightenment. **Montesquieu** believed that government’s powers should be clearly identified and divided up, also known as **Separation of Power**. Separation of power is when a government’s power is split up into branches so that no group is too powerful. This idea was very radical because never had a government’s power been divided up. He believed separation of power was important in order to protect the rights of the people and so that a government did not become corrupt. He suggested that a government’s power should be divided up into 3 branches; legislative branch to make laws, executive branch to put into effect the laws and the judicial branch to judge the laws. Montesquieu’s ideas were instrumental in the creation of the American Constitution and America’s current government.

**After reading and completing the tree map, answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. Describe the enlightenment.
2. Locke believed the people have certain rights. What are those rights and how do people get those rights?
3. According to John Locke, what is the purpose of a government?
4. According to Locke, what would happen to a government who failed the people?
5. Rousseau believed people were basically good and created social contracts with their governments. What is the role of a government under a social contract?
6. How does a representative government function/work?
7. Montesquieu believed in separation of power. What is separation of power and its purpose?
8. How should a government’s power be separated according to Montesquieu?

**Prompt must be answered in no less than 5 sentences.**

Prompt: The enlightenment led to the development of many different ideas and beliefs regarding people’s rights and the government. Which philosopher’s ideas/beliefs do you feel are the most important or valuable and why?

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**Learning Target 2:** Who were some important leaders of the Enlightenment movement and what were some of their ideas?

**Directions: The following questions are based on the accompanying documents/graphs/maps/quotes. As you read and analyze (think about) each document/graph/map/quote be sure to:**

1st- Read the passage independently or with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

2nd - Answer the questions in complete sentences using the document as evidence.

**DOCUMENT #1: John Locke- Second Treatise on Government**

“All men are naturally born in a state of perfect freedom, equal and independent … Men consent to enter into society to preserve their natural rights to life, liberty, and property, whenever the government endeavors to take away or destroy the life, liberty or property of the people, the government puts itself in a state of war with the people…” ~ *John Locke- Second Treatise on Government*

1. According to John Locke, what are the “natural rights of all me?
2. According to John Locke, when should people disobey or rebel or go to war against the government?

**DOCUMENT #3: Jean-Jacques Rousseau- The Social Contract written in 1762**

“The Social Contract provides the solution to this fundamental (*important)* problem. The masses (*all people)* must unite together. This union of all people is called the general will. Each person must put himself and all his power under the control of the general will and must obey whatever the general will decides. Each member has the same power and is an equally important part of the whole (*the general will)*. *Source: Jean-Jacque Rousseau, “The Social Contract,” written in 1762*

1. Rousseau talks about the “general will”. What is the general will?
2. According to Rousseau, how does a government created by the Social Contract work?

**DOCUMENT #2: Charles de Montesquieu-The Spirit of the Laws written in 1777**

“In every government there are three kinds of power. These are the legislative, the executive, and the judicial powers.

The power of the first (*legislative*) is to create laws and to amend (*change)* those that have been already created. The power of the second (*executive*) is to maintain the public security by enforcing (*carrying out)* the laws. The power of the third (*judicial)* is to punish criminals and settle the disputes that arise between individuals.

There would be no freedom if the same man or the same group of men controlled those three powers at once. This man or group of men would have complete control over all parts of the law. They could create tyrannical laws or enforce them like a tyrant. They could plunder (*loot)* the country by their general determinations (*choices)*; and could ruin any private citizen by their particular decisions.

This is why many of the kings and princes of Europe, whose goal has been to attain absolute power, have tried to unite in themselves all the branches of government.”

*Source: Charles de Montesquieu, “The Spirit of Laws,” written in 1777*

1. According to Montesquieu, what are the three kinds of power in every government? What does each one of these powers do?
2. According to Montesquieu, what happens when one group or individual controls all three of these powers? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Explain.

Write a half-page summary explaining the importance of the Enlightenment, natural rights, separation of power and social contract as well as why these ideas/events were important during their time and today. Be sure to add who was involved, and a brief description of each before explaining the importance of each idea.