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PowerPoint[®] Presentations in World History

The Enlightenment

By Dayna Mergenthaler

Bill Williams, Editor
Kerry Gordonson, Editor
Dr. Aaron Willis, Project Coordinator
Shoshana Muhammad, Editorial Assistant
Amanda Harter, Editorial Assistant
Melissa Kaplan, Editorial Assistant

Social Studies School Service
10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802
Culver City, CA 90232
<http://socialstudies.com>
access@socialstudies.com
(800) 421-4246

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10200 Jefferson Blvd., P.O. Box 802
Culver City, CA 90232
United States of America

(310) 839-2436
(800) 421-4246

Fax: (800) 944-5432
Fax: (310) 839-2249

<http://socialstudies.com>
access@socialstudies.com

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Introduction

This PowerPoint® presentation is designed to offer your students an overview of key events, personalities, and concepts. Created by a classroom teacher, the slide show places a premium on ease of use and succinctness. We developed this title to:

- Engage students with visual elements
- Outline key historical issues
- Make learning clear and relevant
- Provide a customizable template for differentiated instruction

On the slides themselves, bullet points highlight central elements, and numerous images help to provide a visual context for the presentation. Extensive notes for each slide offer detailed information to help elaborate bullet points. Handouts provide a convenient way for students to make connections between the ideas presented, and the culminating quiz provides a convenient way to assess student comprehension.

It is not necessary to cover every bullet point on every slide. One of the real benefits of this medium is the flexibility it affords you. We realize that each class and each student has different needs that require different approaches to teaching. Use this presentation to help customize your teaching. Use the “View” menu in PowerPoint® to sort through the slides visually, to view the presentation as a table of contents, or to see the larger groupings of sections and chapters.

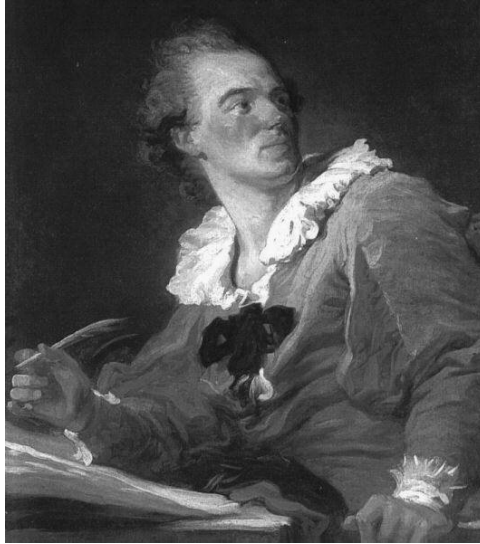
If you want to focus on certain images or make a more detailed exploration of a particular area, you can easily add or delete slides. Simply copy the presentation to your own computer and modify it to create the exact messages that you want to convey. You may also wish to search the Web for additional images, sounds, graphs, timelines, or even video clips to incorporate into the presentation.

We are dedicated to continually improving our products and working with teachers to develop exciting and effective tools for the classroom. We can offer advice on how to maximize the use of the product and share others’ experiences. We would also be happy to work with you on ideas for customizing the presentation.

We value your feedback, so please let us know more about the ways in which you use this product to supplement your lessons; we’re also eager to hear any recommendations you might have for ways in which we can expand the functionality of this product in future editions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Aaron Willis
Social Studies School Service
aaron@socialstudies.com

The Enlightenment



The era known historically as the Enlightenment marks the intellectual beginning of the modern world. Ideas originating in this era would gradually spread around the world creating challenges to existing traditions and ways of governing. Many governments today have Enlightenment principles as the basis of their constitutions and forms of government. In addition, the expansion of suffrage to women, blacks, and people of all classes is a legacy of the Enlightenment. Enlightenment ideas on equality also helped end the dominance of social elites such as the aristocracy and the church. Enlightenment thought also led many countries to establish systems of public schools and put an end to the idea that education was only a privilege for the upper classes.

Note to teacher: The image in this slide is Jean-Honoré Fragonard's "Inspiration," which shows a *philosophe* at his desk lost deep in thought.

What Was the Enlightenment?



The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement in Europe during the 18th century that led to a whole new world view.

When historians discuss the “Enlightenment,” they are usually referring to 18th-century Europe (France and England in particular), although other parts of the world (including the U.S.) are often included as well. The Enlightenment was a period of intellectual ferment that gave rise to a range of new theories about society, government, philosophy, economics, and religion. The period produced more than just abstract theorizing, however: it offered a whole new way of conceptualizing the world and one’s place in it. In many ways, this change in perception marked the beginning of the modern era, as institutions and traditions of the past began to shift—and even crumble—in the face of new ideas and approaches.

Note to teacher: The painting in this slide is *Une soirée chez Madame Geoffrin*. Created in 1755, it shows a French *salon*. Among the notable *philosophes* depicted in the painting are Diderot, d’Alembert, Turgot, and Condillac. A bust of Voltaire appears in the background.

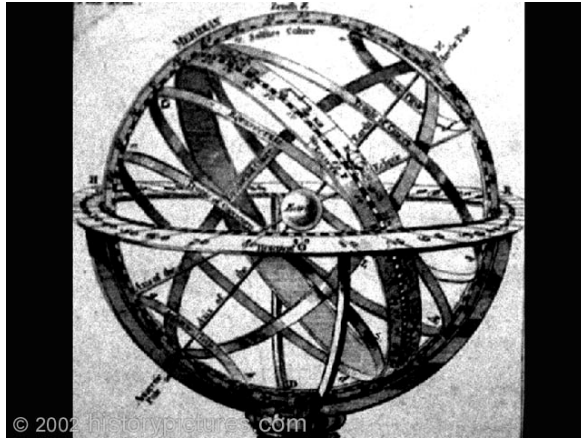


Immanuel Kant

According to the 18th-century philosopher Immanuel Kant, the “motto” of the Enlightenment was “*Sapere aude!* Have courage to use your own intelligence!” (Kant, “What Is Enlightenment?” 1784)

The term “enlightenment” was first coined by Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher. “*Sapere aude*” means “dare to know” in Latin. Kant also wrote in this essay, “All that is required for this enlightenment is freedom; and particularly the least harmful of all that may be called freedom, namely, the freedom for man to make public use of his reason in all matters.” In other words, in order to be “enlightened,” a person had to think independently rather than simply follow society’s customs and traditions. Thus, the Enlightenment encouraged free thought (or at least freer and more wide-ranging thought than had occurred in the recent past).

The Scientific Revolution



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The equatorial armillary, used for navigation on ships

The Enlightenment grew largely out of the new methods and discoveries achieved in the Scientific Revolution

The most important factor in the development of the Enlightenment was the Scientific Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries.

Francis Bacon and the Scientific Method



Sir Francis Bacon

- The scientific method
- Observation and experimentation
- Testable hypothesis

Sir Francis Bacon laid the theoretical groundwork for what became known as the scientific method. In Europe, science had been almost a combination of magic and academics, and scientists were not concerned with careful practices, methodical actions, logic, or theory. Bacon believed that all scientific research should rely on careful observation and experimentation rather than simply relying on one's own thought and reasoning, as earlier scientific thinkers had. The data obtained should then be recorded and analyzed according to logic and reason, then used to produce a testable hypothesis.

Isaac Newton and the Scientific Method

- Used the scientific method to make a range of discoveries
- Newton's achievements using the scientific method helped inspire Enlightenment thinkers



Sir Isaac Newton

Although earlier scientists had already put Bacon's ideas into practice, Sir Isaac Newton is the scientist most associated with the scientific method. Newton made a range of groundbreaking discoveries in the fields of mathematics, physics, optics, and more. Newton's achievements provided the inspiration for the Enlightenment: if the scientific method had worked so well for finding scientific truth, perhaps it could be applied to social sciences as well so that the truths about society itself could be discovered.

Enlightenment Principles



A meeting of French Enlightenment thinkers

- Religion, tradition, and superstition limited independent thought
- Accept knowledge based on observation, logic, and reason, not on faith
- Scientific and academic thought should be secular

The Enlightenment era was characterized by secularism, challenges to authority, and the glorification of reason.

Bullet #1 Many Enlightenment thinkers felt that although the great minds of the medieval and Renaissance eras had achieved much, they also had been overly constrained by religion, tradition, and superstition. To truly achieve independent thought, one had to throw off all limits and rely solely on reason.

Bullet #2 Like the pioneers of the Scientific Revolution, Enlightenment thinkers also strove to make conclusions based on observation, logic, and reason, rather than on faith.

Bullet #3 Enlightenment thinkers revived the spirit of the Renaissance quest for knowledge, choosing to focus on human nature and the workings of society rather than on spiritual matters and religious tenets. This secular approach led to the development of the social sciences.

The Marquis de Condorcet

- French mathematician
- *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Spirit*



The Marquis de Condorcet was a renowned mathematician who played an active role early on in the French Revolution, leading a redesign of the educational system and helping to write the first French constitution. When the Radicals (Jacobins) took over the Revolution, however, he went into hiding. During this time, he wrote his most famous work, *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Spirit*. His book provided a clear expression of many Enlightenment ideals: an unbending faith in “reason” as the means to discover all “truths,” continual advancements both in science and in social mores and attitudes, and a belief that humans can realistically strive for “perfectibility” in all areas of life.

Condorcet (continued)

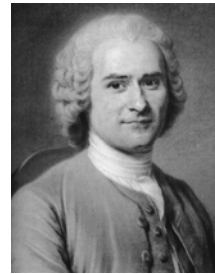


- Universal education
- Progress and “perfectibility”

Condorcet felt that not just elite scientists and intellectuals could make great discoveries, but people of “ordinary intelligence” as well. He therefore favored “universal education,” stating that “by giving more people the elementary knowledge that can inspire them with a taste for more advanced study and give them a capacity for making progress in it...and that, therefore, the number of men destined to push back the frontiers of the sciences by their discoveries will grow in the same proportion.”

Condorcet firmly believed that a devotion to reason could ensure a better future. He stated that eventually “the progress of reason will have gone hand in hand with progress in the arts and sciences”; consequently, people would come to realize that “their object is the general welfare of the human species.” To this end, society would move towards providing a larger intellectual life for everyone, innovations that would ease the burden of labor on the working classes, freedom from want, and a greater “equality” among members of society. Condorcet’s optimistic belief in the “perfectibility” of society was shared by many Enlightenment thinkers.

Enlightenment Thinkers



Many Enlightenment thinkers were also mathematicians and scientists. They viewed changes in science as going hand in hand with changes in philosophy.