

CHAPTER 22 Section 4 (pages 640–645)

The American Revolution

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the spread of Enlightenment ideas in Europe.

In this section, you will learn how Enlightenment ideas influenced the American Revolution.

AS YOU READ

Use the web below to take notes on the influence of the Enlightenment on the early United States.

TERMS AND NAMES

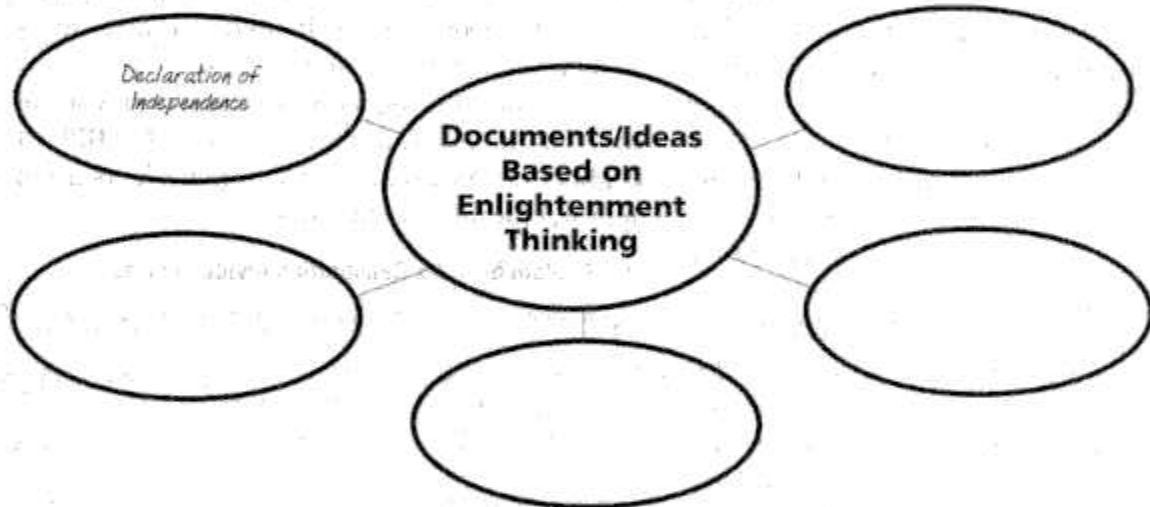
Declaration of Independence Document declaring American independence from Britain

Thomas Jefferson Author of the Declaration of Independence

checks and balances System in which each branch of government checks, or limits, the power of the other two branches

federal system System of government in which power is divided between the national and state governments

Bill of Rights First ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution; protections of basic rights for individuals



Britain and Its American Colonies

(page 640)

How were the colonies governed?

The British colonies in North America grew in population and wealth during the 1700s. Population went from about 250,000 in 1700 to 2,150,000 in 1770. Economically, they prospered on trade with the nations of Europe. The 13

colonies also had a kind of self-government. People in the colonies began to see themselves less and less as British subjects. Still, Parliament passed laws that governed the colonies. One set of laws banned trade with any nation other than Britain.

1. How did the colonists' image of themselves clash with their status as colonists?

Americans Win Independence

(pages 641–643)

What caused Britain and America to grow apart?

The high cost of the French and Indian War led Parliament to pass laws that put taxes on the colonists. The colonists became very angry. They had never before paid taxes directly to the British government. They said that the taxes *violated* their rights. Since Parliament had no members from the colonies, they said, Parliament had no right to tax them.

The colonists met the first tax, passed in 1765, with a *boycott* of British goods. Their refusal to buy British products was very effective. It forced Parliament to *repeal* the law.

Over the next decade, the colonists and Britain grew further apart. Some colonists wanted to push the colonies to independence. They took actions that caused Britain to act harshly. Eventually, the conflict led to war. Representatives of the colonies met in a congress and formed an army. In July 1776, they announced that they were independent of Britain. They issued the **Declaration of Independence**. It was based on Enlightenment ideas. **Thomas Jefferson** wrote it.

From 1775 to 1781, the colonies and the British fought a war in North America. The colonists had a poorly equipped army, and Britain was one of the most powerful nations in the world. However, in the end, the colonies won their independence.

The British people grew tired of the cost of the war and pushed Parliament to agree to a peace. The Americans were also helped greatly by aid from France. In 1783, the two sides signed a treaty. In it, Britain recognized the independent United States of America.

2. Name some of the steps that led to the American Revolution.

Americans Create a Republic

(pages 644–645)

What are some fundamental ideas in the U.S. Constitution?

The 13 states formed a new government under the Article of Confederation. This government was very weak. States held all the power and the central government had little. This proved unworkable. In 1787, American leaders met again. They wrote a new framework of government.

The Constitution of the United States drew on many Enlightenment ideas. It used Montesquieu's idea of separation of powers into three branches of government. Through a system of **checks and balances**, each branch was able to prevent other branches from abusing their power. The Constitution also set up a **federal system**. Under this system, power was divided between national and state governments.

The Constitution also used Locke's idea of putting power in the hands of the people. It used Voltaire's ideas to protect the right to free speech and freedom of religion. It used Beccaria's ideas about a fair system of justice.

Many of these rights were ensured in a set of additions to the Constitution called the **Bill of Rights**. The inclusion of a bill of rights helped win approval for the Constitution.

3. Explain how the Constitution divides power.

Glossary**CHAPTER 22 Enlightenment and Revolution****abuses** Improper uses, misuses**astronomy** Study of the universe beyond the earth**boycott** Organized refusal to buy a certain good or participate in a certain action**hypothesis** Attempt to answer a question that needs to be proven or disproven**intellectual** Related to thinking or to the mind**law of gravity** Idea linking motion in the heavens with motion on the Earth and based on the principle that every object attracts every other object**reformed** Changed for the better**repeal** Take back a law**serfdom** State or condition of using workers as slaves**vaccination** Introduction of weakened or killed viruses or bacteria into the body to protect against a specific disease**violated** Went against**AFTER YOU READ****Terms and Names****A.** Write the term or name in each blank that best completes the meaning of the paragraph.

Isaac Newton

heliocentric theory

Scientific Revolution

geocentric theory

Galileo Galilei

Many thinkers contributed to the significant changes in scientific thinking known as the **1** _____. In astronomy, Nicolaus Copernicus first developed the idea that the earth revolved around the sun. This became known as the **2** _____. It refuted the earth-centered view of the universe, known as the **3** _____. A great pioneer in science at this time was **4** _____. He described the law of gravity. Another significant figure was **5** _____, who ended up having to recant his theories before a papal court.

B. Write the letter of the name or term next to the description that explains it best.**a.** Mary Wollstonecraft**b.** John Locke**c.** Montesquieu**d.** Thomas Jefferson**e.** Voltaire

- ____ **1.** Philosopher who said people have natural rights
- ____ **2.** Thinker known for ideas about separation of powers
- ____ **3.** Writer who championed freedom of speech and freedom of religion
- ____ **4.** Writer who championed women's rights
- ____ **5.** Author of the Declaration of Independence