

Enlightenment Vocabulary

Enlightenment-the belief that science and natural laws bring individuals and society to a more enlightened state

Scientific method- a way of performing experiments

Natural law-the patterns that control the behavior of the universe

Natural rights- the rights to life, liberty and property

Colony- a territory ruled over by a distant state (original Plymouth Colony ruled by England)

Galileo Galilei-Astronomer that proved that the planets in our solar system revolve around the sun

Isaac Newton-physicist who developed the theories about natural laws, such as laws of motion and gravity

John Locke-his ideas influenced political ideas during the enlightenment. He believed in life, liberty, and property. He felt that government should be an agreement and when the agreement is broken the people can revolt.

Thomas Jefferson-Chief drafter of the Declaration of Independence-borrowed ideas from John Locke

Andreas Vesalius-Flemish doctor- first used pictures of the human body

William Harvey-scientist who studied blood circulation and the heart

Robert Boyle- Irish chemist- studied the foundation of modern chemistry

Nicolaus Copernicus-scientist who discovered that the sun was the center of the solar system

Francis Bacon-he proposed a theory of scientific knowledge based on observation and experiment that came to be known as the inductive method.

Rene Descartes-French philosopher-books proposing geometry –used alphabet in math-mirror reflection-

Thomas Hobbes- strongly supported the power of the royalty and the divine right of kings

Voltaire- A ruler should be strong and enlightened. People should have the freedom of religion and thought or speech

Rousseau- the individual is essentially good but usually corrupted by society

Montesquieu-French political philosopher who advocated the separation of executive and legislative and judicial powers