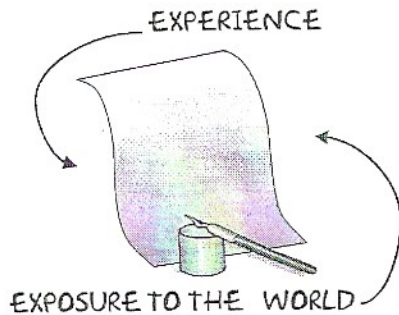


John Locke

Name: _____

A Man with Many Hats

John Locke was born in England in 1632. Locke considered becoming a minister, started his career as a doctor, but ended up as a philosopher and political scientist. He had many interests and produced a number of writings that influenced future leaders. One of those leaders was Thomas Jefferson, who helped America gain independence from Britain nearly 150 years after Locke was born. Jefferson studied Locke's writings, and Locke's ideas show up in our own Constitution.



The Blank Slate

One of Locke's books, called *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, took over 18 years to write! In it, he says that people are born with a mind like a **tabula rasa**, which means a blank slate or page. During life, that blank slate gets filled up with the things a person experiences with the five senses. He said people learn and develop differently because they are exposed to different things. The one thing people have in common is that they are human and share a human nature that is the same for all people everywhere.

Natural Rights

Locke imagined a set of **natural rights** that human beings share. These are the right to life, liberty, and property. **Life** refers to the fact that people want to live and will fight to survive. **Liberty** means that people want to be as free as possible to make their own decisions. **Property** represents the fact that people want to own things that help them survive, such as land, food, and tools. Locke believed these rights aren't given to people—people are born with them.

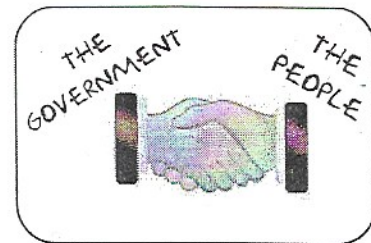


Why do we need a government?

Locke also wondered what life would be like if people didn't have a government. In this **state of nature** there would be no rules, no one in charge, and no way for people to protect their natural rights. He believed the purpose of government is to end the state of nature and give people certain protections. Most importantly, Locke believed governments should protect people's natural rights.

Social Contract

Locke believed a government can only be legitimate, or valid, if it is based on a social contract with citizens. A **contract** is an agreement between people in which both sides agree to something in order to reach a shared goal. A **social contract** happens between a government and its people. The people agree to give up some freedoms if the government agrees to protect everyone's rights. If the government fails to deliver, the people revolt—like the colonists did during the American Revolution.



INFLUENCES FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT | JOHN LOCKE

According to the text, whom did John Locke influence? _____

Vocabulary Graphic Organizer			
Directions , while you read identify and write down the evidence from the text that defines the term. Define the term in your own words and create a picture, symbol or visual representation of the term.			
Concept	Evidence from Text	Definition in your own words	Visual Representation
natural rights			
social contract			

According to John Locke, how are the concept of social contract and the purpose of government related? What evidence in the text led you to your answer?	
Evidence from Text	Answer

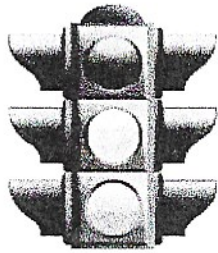
Additional Vocabulary Terms from Class Discussion	
natural law	
consent of the governed	

A Baron is Born

Charles Louis de Secondat was born in 1689 in the city of Bordeaux, France. At age 27, he became Baron de Montesquieu (MON-teh-skew) when he inherited his uncle's fortune and title. Montesquieu was one of the great thinkers of the 17th and 18th centuries. He spent a lot of time thinking about how governments should be created and maintained. His ideas guided the Founding Fathers when they wrote the United States Constitution. Even today, Montesquieu's thinking influences the way people think about government around the world.



Baron de Montesquieu



How do the laws in our society keep us safe?

Follow the Rules

The term *liberty* means different things to different people. Some think liberty means being able to speak and act without being held back by laws and rules—in other words, being able to do whatever you want. But Montesquieu believed that **liberty** is the peace of mind that comes from being safe. He believed safety can only exist if everyone follows the law. If governments could provide and enforce clear laws that everyone would follow, it would increase liberty, reduce the problems of society, and improve human life.

Separate...

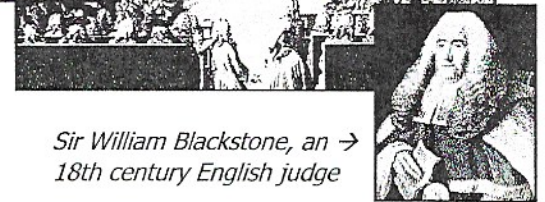
Montesquieu studied the laws, customs, and governments of European countries to see how they created and enforced laws. He admired the government of England. The English government had three parts: a king to enforce laws, Parliament to create laws, and courts to interpret laws. The government was divided into parts, and each part had its own purpose. Montesquieu called this the **separation of powers**.



← King George III



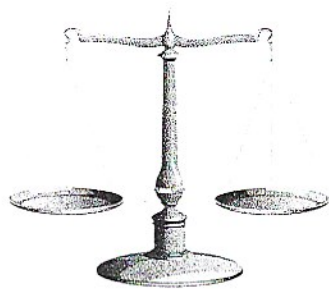
House of Commons ↓



Sir William Blackstone, an → 18th century English judge

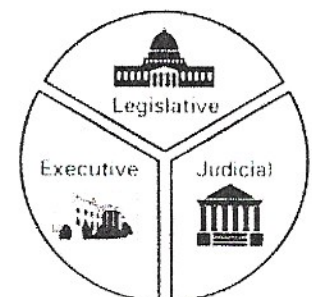
...but Equal

Dividing the powers of government was just the first step. Each part of the government needed to be *balanced* with the other parts. Montesquieu thought that each of the parts, or branches, of government should be equal. He worried that if one branch had more power than the others, people would suffer and lose their liberty. To avoid this, he suggested that each branch have the ability to *limit* the power of the other two branches. In England, if the king tried to take too much control, the Parliament or the courts could act to stop him. Today, we call this the system of **checks and balances**.



Sound Familiar?

James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," liked the idea that each branch of government should have a clear role. As a result, the U.S. Constitution clearly explains what each branch is supposed to do: **Congress** makes laws, the **President** enforces laws, and the **Courts** interpret laws. Each branch has the power to check, or limit, the other branches. This keeps all branches of government balanced and equal.



INFLUENCES FROM THE ENLIGHTENMENT | BARON DE MONTESQUIEU

According to the text, what document did Montesquieu influence? _____

According to the text, how did Montesquieu define liberty and how did he explain the relationship between liberty and government? What evidence in the text led you to your answer?	
Evidence from Text	Answer
<p>Montesquieu believed that _____ is the peace of mind that comes from being _____.</p> <p>He believed _____ can only exist if everyone follows the _____. If governments could provide and _____ clear laws that everyone would follow, it would increase _____, reduce the problems of _____, and improve _____.</p>	<p>According to Montesquieu, _____ is the feeling of _____. This feeling of _____ comes when government provides and _____ clear _____ that everyone can follow.</p>

Concept	Evidence from Text	Definition in your own words	Visual Representation
separation of powers	The English government had _____ parts: a king to _____ laws, Parliament to _____ laws, and courts to _____ laws. The _____ was divided into parts, and each part had its own purpose.	Separation of powers is when the _____ is divided into _____ and each _____ has its own _____.	
checks and balances	Each part of the government needed to be _____ with the other parts. ...he suggested that each _____ have the ability to _____ the _____ of the other two branches.	Checks and balances means that the branches of government are _____ and each branch can _____ the _____ of the other two.	

According to the text, how did Montesquieu's ideas influence the U.S. Constitution? What evidence in the text led you to your answer?

Evidence from Text	Answer
James Madison.. liked the idea that each branch of government should have a clear role. As a result, the U.S. Constitution clearly explains what each branch is supposed to do: Congress makes laws, the President enforces laws, and the Courts interpret laws. Each branch has the power to check, or limit, the other branches.	Due to _____ influence, the U.S. Constitution has set up our government into _____ separate branches that have the power to _____ and _____ each other.
<p>Impact of Montesquieu's Influence: Without _____ influence, we would not have the system of government that we have today. The ideas of _____ and _____ are vital to making our country function.</p>	