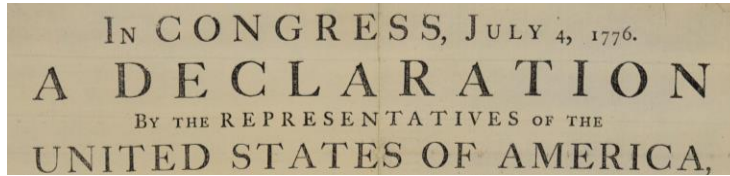


AIM: How did Enlightenment ideas influence the American Revolution?

**DO NOW:** Use information from the BrainPOP video to complete the chart on your Notes Sheet.

**Document 1 – (from The Declaration of Independence, adopted July 4, 1776)**



Q1: What is the main idea of this excerpt? Which Enlightenment thinker does it remind you of? Explain.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness; that to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.”

**Document 2 – (from the U.S. Constitution, adopted 1787)**



Q2: Which words from this excerpt most remind you of the Enlightenment thinkers? Explain.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

**Document 3 – (from the U.S. Constitution, adopted 1787)**

Q3: Why do you think the first three articles of the U.S. Constitution were written this way? Which Enlightenment thinker does this remind you of? Explain.

**Article I. Section 1.** All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives...

**Article II. Section 1.** The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows...

**Article III. Section 1.** The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

**Document 4 – (from the U.S. Bill of Rights, 1791)**

Q4: *What specific rights are protected in these two amendments to the Constitution? Does anything in the amendments remind you of the Enlightenment thinkers we have studied? Which thinkers?*



First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Eighth Amendment: Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

**Document 5 – “Concord Hymn”, 1837**

"Concord Hymn" is a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson written for the 1837 dedication of the Obelisk, a monument in Concord, Massachusetts commemorating the Battle of Concord, the second in a series of battles and skirmishes on April 19, 1775 at the outbreak of the American Revolution.

Q5: *How would you describe the tone of this poem? Why do you think Emerson chose the words “the shot heard round the world”?*

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,  
Their flag to April’s breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood,  
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;  
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;  
And Time the ruined bridge has swept  
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,  
We set to-day a votive stone;  
That memory may their deed redeem,  
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare,  
To die, and leave their children free,  
Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
The shaft we raise to them and thee



**CLOSING ACTIVITY:** Watch the History Channel video. What claims does the video make about the global impact of the American Revolution?