Enlightenment
1650-1800

The Evolution Of The IDEA
Enlightenment
1650-1800

- It takes time to change a way of thinking... A LOT of time

- Scientific Revolution (1550-1700)
  - science began to challenge the church
  - evidence and reason over faith and tradition

- Monarchs had become like Gods on Earth
  - Divine Right- kings had their thrones thanks to God
  - people begin to question this form of authority as well
English Civil War
1642-1651
Monarchy vs. Parliament

The Beheading of King Charles the First, at Whitehall. A.D. 1649.
Important People

- Hobbes
- Locke
- Voltaire
- Montesquieu
- Rousseau
- Wollstonecraft
Thomas Hobbes
1588-1679

- English
- Experience of the Eng. Civil War
  - people are selfish and wicked
- Social Contract
  - agreement between rulers and their people
  - people need strong ruler to both control and protect
- Believed in absolute monarchy
John Locke
1632-1704

- English
- Experience of the Eng. Civil War
  - people can learn from their mistakes

- Natural Rights
  - Life, Liberty, and Property
- Rejects idea of divine right
  - people can govern themselves

- Influences the Founding Fathers in America
Voltaire
1694-1778

French writer
- political essays, philosophy, drama

Used satire to poke fun of clergy, nobles, and government officials

Fought for tolerance, reason and freedom of speech

“I do not agree with a word you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.”
Baron de Montesquieu
1689-1755

- French nobility

- Thought England was an example of the best government
  - King - executive branch
  - Parliament - legislative branch
  - Courts - judicial branch

- Separation of Powers
  - English gov’t did not actually work this way at the time
Jean Jacques Rousseau
1712-1778

- Swiss
- Individual freedom
- **Direct democracy** - let the people vote directly for control of gov’t
- Believed that all people are equal
  - Nobility should lose their titles
Mary Wollstonecraft
1759-1797

- English
- Received little formal schooling
  - learned through reading books with her sisters
- Fought for female empowerment
  - women should have education too
  - criticized unequal relationship between men & women in marriage
  - urged women to enter into medicine and politics (male areas)
Assume that you have just been chosen to serve on a panel charged with naming someone to appear on the cover of *Time Magazine* as “The Most Outstanding Thinker.”

If your only choices are the people covered and represented in these presentations, who would you nominate? (Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Descartes, Bacon, and Newton) (Hobbes, Locke, Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Wollstonecraft)

Sketch your cover and include short captions justifying your selection.