The Rise of Democratic Ideas

The Enlightenment and Democratic Revolutions

Terms and Names

Enlightenment Intellectual movement that started in Europe

social contract Agreement between citizens and the government

natural rights Rights all people have

separation of powers Division of government into separate branches

American Revolution Americans' fight for independence from Britain

representative government Government in which citizens elect representatives to make laws

federal system Government in which powers are divided between federal and state governments

French Revolution French people's fight for democratic freedoms

United Nations International organization established in 1945

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the development of democracy in England.

In this section, you will learn how new ways of thinking about the rights of people led to the American and French revolutions.

As You Read

Use an outline to organize the main ideas and details in the section.

ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS AND IDEAS (Pages 24-25)
What was the Enlightenment?

The **Enlightenment** was an intellectual movement that developed in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. Thinkers of this movement had been influenced by the Scientific Revolution. They hoped to use reasoning instead of traditional beliefs to discover natural laws that govern society.

One Enlightenment thinker was Thomas Hobbes. He believed that the best form of government was absolute monarchy. He

said people should form a type of **social contract**, or agreement, with a ruler. They would submit to a ruler to prevent disorder.

John Locke took a different view. He said all people had **natural rights**. These were the rights to life, liberty, and property. He said people form governments to protect these natural rights. He also said people have a right to rebel against a government that does not protect their rights.

French Enlightenment thinkers included Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Baron de Montesquieu. Voltaire fought for tolerance, freedom of religion, and free speech. Rousseau said the only legitimate government was one in which the people chose what was best for the community.

Montesquieu believed that government should be kept under control to protect people's freedoms. He believed that could best be done through a **separation of powers**. This meant dividing the government into branches that would include a lawmaking body, an executive branch to carry out the laws, and courts to interpret laws.

1. According to Locke, why are governments formed?

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THE BEGINNINGS OF DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA (**Pages** 25-27)
Why did Americans fight for independence?

Enlightenment ideas had a strong impact on the colonists in Britain's North American colonies. The colonists helped Britain defeat France in the French and Indian War. The victory gave Britain all of North America east of the Mississippi River. To help pay for the war, the British Parliament placed taxes on the colonists. The colonists opposed these taxes because they were not represented in Parliament. This was just one of a series of measures that the colonists thought violated their rights.

The colonists fought for independence in the **American Revolution**. They issued a Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. After years of war, the British army surrendered in 1781.

In 1787, a group of American leaders met in Philadelphia. They met to set up a

new plan for governing the nation. Enlightenment ideas helped shape this plan. The U.S. Constitution included a **representative government**, as advocated by Rousseau. This is a government in which citizens elect representatives to make laws for them. The Constitution created a **federal system**. In this system, the powers of government are divided between the federal government and state governments. The Constitution also included a separation of powers between branches in the federal government. This was based on the ideas of Montesquieu.

2. What kind of government did Americans create?

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THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
(**Pages** 27-28)
Why did the French revolt?

In the late 1780s, there was great unrest in France. The middle class was dissatisfied with Louis XVI's weak leadership. The Enlightenment raised questions about people's rights. The economy was failing, and the peasants were hungry and restless.

In 1789 the common people formed the National Assembly. They felt that they were not represented in their government. Soon people from other classes joined them. Peasants in Paris began an uprising to win democratic freedoms. This fight is known as the **French Revolution**.

The National Assembly made many reforms. It adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. This document guaranteed certain rights to all French people. The Assembly also ended the feudal system and drafted a constitution that made France a limited monarchy.

The work of the Assembly did not last long, however. A radical lawmaking body took charge. Soon, a Reign of Terror took place. Many who opposed the revolution were killed for their beliefs. In 1799, a military leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, took control and created a dictatorship. Democracy in France did not develop until the mid-1800s.

3. What was the French Revolution?

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THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY CONTINUES (**Pages** 28-29)
How **does the United Nations promote democracy?**

It took centuries for democracy to develop throughout the world. Today, most people look upon it as the best form of government.

An international organization called the **United Nations** (UN) was established in 1945. Its goal is to keep world peace and to make people's lives better. In 1948 the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document includes such democratic ideas as the right to life, liberty, and security. It also includes rights to equal protection under the law and to the freedom to assemble.

There are many places in the world today where people do not have these rights. Recent struggles for democracy have taken place in a number of nations, including the republics of the former Soviet Union, South Africa, and East Timor.

4. What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

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As you read about the Enlightenment, take notes to show each thinker's
main ideas about government.

Enlightenment Thinker	Ideas About Government
1. John Locke	
2. Baron de Montesquieu	

As you read about democratic revolutions, take notes to fill in the Venn
diagram below to compare the American Revolution to the French
Revolution.

American Revolution   **French Revolution**

Both
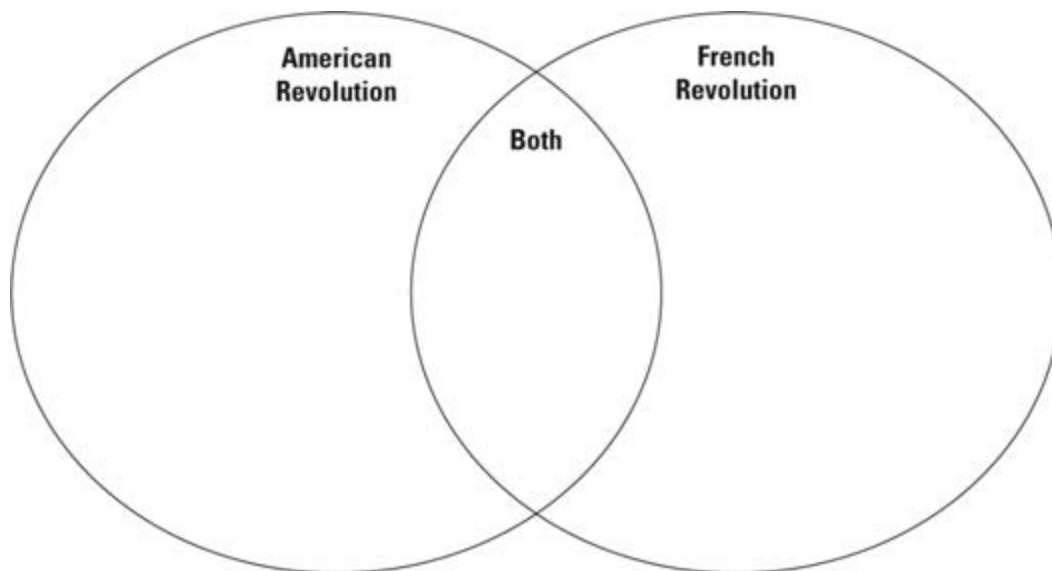
European Renaissance and Reformation

Italy: Birthplace of the Renaissance

Terms and Names

Renaissance Period of rebirth of art and learning in Europe lasting from about 1300 to 1600

humanism Focus on human potential and achievements

secular Concerned with worldly rather than spiritual matters

patrons People who financially supported artists

perspective Art technique that re-creates three dimensions

vernacular Use of native language instead of classical Latin

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the development of the Incan Empire.

In this section, you will learn about the beginning of the Renaissance.

As You Read

Use an outline to organize each summary's main ideas and details.

ITALY'S ADVANTAGES
(**Pages** 37–38)
Why **did the Renaissance begin in Italy?**

The years 1300 to 1600 saw a rebirth of learning and culture in Europe called the **Renaissance.** This rebirth spread north from Italy. It began there for three reasons. First, Italy had several important cities. Cities were places where people exchanged ideas. Second, these cities included a class of merchants and bankers who were becoming wealthy and powerful. This class strongly believed in the idea of individual achievement. Third, Italian artists and scholars were inspired by the ruined buildings and other reminders of classical Rome.

1. What are three reasons why the Renaissance began in Italy?

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CLASSICAL AND WORLDLY VALUES (**Pages** 38–39)
What **new values did people hold?**

Interest in the classical past led to an important value in Renaissance culture— **humanism.** This was a deep interest in what people have already achieved as well as what they could achieve in the future. Scholars did not try to connect classical writings to Christian teaching. Instead, they tried to understand them on their own terms.

Guided Reading Workbook

In the Middle Ages, the emphasis had been mostly on spiritual values. Renaissance thinkers stressed **secular** ideas. These ideas centered on the things of the world. One way that powerful or wealthy people showed this interest in worldly things was by paying artists, writers, and musicians to create beautiful works of art. Wealthy people who supported artists were known as **patrons.**

People tried to show that they could master many fields of study or work. Someone who succeeded in many fields was admired greatly. The artist Leonardo da Vinci was an example of this ideal. He was a painter, a scientist, and an inventor. Men were expected to be charming, witty, well educated, well mannered, athletic, and self-controlled. Women were expected to have many accomplishments, too. But women were not to show them in public.

2. What are secular ideas?

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THE RENAISSANCE REVOLUTIONIZES ART
(**Pages** 40–41)
How did art change during the Renaissance?

Renaissance artists sometimes used new methods. Sculptors made figures more realistic than those from the Middle Ages. Painters used **perspective** to create the illusion that their paintings were three-dimensional. The subject of artwork changed also. Art in the Middle Ages was mostly religious. Renaissance artists

reproduced other views of life. Michelangelo showed great skill as an architect, a sculptor, and a painter.

3. How did the methods and subjects in art change?

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RENAISSANCE WRITERS CHANGE LITERATURE (**Pages** 41–42)
How did literature change during the Renaissance?

Renaissance writers also achieved greatness. Several wrote in the **vernacular.** This means they wrote in their native languages. It was a change from the Middle Ages, when most writing was done in Latin. Writers also changed their subject matter. They began to express their own thoughts and feelings. Sometimes they gave a detailed look at an individual. Dante and others wrote poetry, letters, and stories that were more realistic. Niccoló Machiavelli took a new approach to understanding government. He focused on telling rulers how to expand their power. He believed rulers should do what was politically effective, even if it was not morally right.

4. What did Renaissance writers write about?

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As you read about the rebirth of learning and the arts in Italy, write notes to answer the questions.

In Italy, thriving urban centers, a wealthy merchant class, and the classical heritage of Greece and Rome encouraged the development of new ideas and values.

1. How did humanism influence the growth of learning?	
2. How did ideas about piety and a simple life change?	
3. What role did patrons of the arts play in the development of Renaissance ideas?	

Styles in art and literature changed as artists and writers emphasized the individual.

4. What effects did the emphasis on individuals have on painters and sculptors?	
5. How did writers reflect Renaissance values in their work?	
6. How did the writing of Petrarch, Boccaccio, and Machiavelli demonstrate the values of humanism?	

European Renaissance and Reformation

The Northern Renaissance

Terms and Names

Utopia An ideal place

William Shakespeare Famous Renaissance writer

Johann Gutenberg German craftsman who developed the printing press

Before You Read

In the last section, you read how the Renaissance began in Italy.

In this section, you will learn how Renaissance ideas spread in northern Europe.

As You Read

Use a time line to note important events of the northern Renaissance.

THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE BEGINS (**Page** 46)
Why **was the time right for the northern Renaissance to begin?**

By 1450, the bubonic plague had ended in northern Europe. Also, the Hundred Years' War between France and England was ending. This allowed new ideas from Italy to spread to northern Europe. They were quickly adopted. Here, too, rulers and merchants used their money to sponsor artists. But the northern Renaissance had a difference. Educated people combined classical learning with interest in religious ideas.

1. How was the northern Renaissance different from the Renaissance in Italy?

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ARTISTIC IDEAS SPREAD
(**Pages** 46–47)
What **ideas about art developed in northern Europe?**

The new ideas of Italian art moved to the north, where artists began to use them. Major artists appeared in parts of Germany, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. Dürer painted religious subjects and realistic landscapes. Holbein, Van Eyck, and Bruegel painted lifelike portraits and scenes of peasant life. They revealed much about the times. They began to use oil-based paints. Oils became very popular, and their use spread to Italy.

2. What did northern European artists paint?

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NORTHERN WRITERS TRY TO REFORM SOCIETY; THE ELIZABETHAN AGE (**Pages** 48–49)
What did northern writers write?

Writers of the northern Renaissance combined humanism with a deep Christian faith. They urged reforms in the Church. They tried to make people more devoted to God. They also wanted society to be more fair. In England, Thomas More wrote a book about **Utopia,** an imaginary ideal society where greed, war, and conflict do not exist.

William Shakespeare is often called the greatest playwright of all time. His plays showed a brilliant command of the English language. They also show a deep understanding of people and how they interact with one another.

3. Who were two of the most famous writers of the northern Renaissance?

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PRINTING SPREADS RENAISSANCE IDEAS; THE LEGACY OF THE RENAISSANCE
(**Pages** 50–51)
Why was the printing press such an important development?

One reason that learning spread so rapidly during the Renaissance was the invention of movable type. The Chinese had invented the process of carving characters onto wooden blocks. They then arranged them in words, inked the blocks, and pressed them against paper to print pages.

In 1440, a German, **Johann Gutenberg,** used this same practice to invent his printing press. He produced his first book—the Gutenberg Bible—in 1455 on this press. The technology then spread rapidly. By 1500, presses in Europe had printed nearly 10 million books.

Printing made it easier to make many copies of a book. As a result, written works became available far and wide. Books were printed in English, French, Spanish, Italian, or German. More people began to read. The Bible was a popular book. After reading the Bible, some people formed new ideas about Christianity. These ideas were different from the official teachings of the Church.

The Renaissance prompted changes in both art and society. Artists and writers portrayed people in more realistic ways and celebrated individual achievement. In a larger sense, the Renaissance opened up a world of new ideas to people and led them to examine and question things more closely.

4. What effects did the printing press have on northern European life?

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As you read about the ways that northern Europeans adapted the ideas of
the Renaissance, take notes to answer each question.

1. What factors led to the beginning of the Renaissance in northern Europe?
2. How did the invention of the printing press help spread learning and Renaissance ideas?

Describe briefly how each of the following showed Renaissance influences
in his work.

3. Albrecht Dürer
4. Jan van Eyck
5. Pieter Bruegel the Elder
6. Desiderius Erasmus
7. Thomas More
8. William Shakespeare