



TOPIC: EUROPEAN ENLIGHTENMENT

SUBJECT: HISTORY

LEVEL/AGE: 15 years old

FOREKNOWLEDGE: Basic knowledge of the changes that took place in Europe at an economic, social, political and scientific level (authoritarian and democratic system of government, development of world trade, development of cultivation and processing methods, population growth, accumulation of capital, development of sciences)

LENGTH: 5 PAGES (DURATION: 180 MINUTES)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this lesson, the pupils must know:

- The economic, social and political circumstances of 18th-century Europe.
- The characteristics and the main representatives of the Enlightenment.
- The main ideas proposed for politics, economy, religion, education and science.
- Terms such as "The Social Contract", "Natural rights", "General will and will of all", "Separation of Powers" and "Encyclopedia".
- The effect of the ideas of the Enlightenment in today's society (constitution, laws, structure of the society).



RESOURCES

Microsoft word

Google Docs

Microsoft PowerPoint

[MindMap Maker](#)

[ZeeMaps](#)

[PixLr](#)

TEACHING METHODS

Video presentation Lecture
Creation of a conceptual map
Cooperative work (research and presentation)

ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION (12 minutes)

There will be a short presentation of the Enlightenment chapter with a video and students will say what they think the term "enlightenment" means. The results are recorded in a table.

["Age of Enlightenment: The Age of Reason Explained"](#) by Captivating History

THEORY PART (35 minutes)

With the help of a map, the teacher will present the geographical scope of the Enlightenment (in which countries it appeared and which countries it influenced), its basic characteristics (belief in man's rational ability to interpret the world, belief in education as a means of improvement and development of the individual and society, belief that questioning leads to the search for truth, etc). Students will be introduced to the terms: "Doubt", "Logic", "The social contract", "Natural rights", "General and special will", "The separation of powers" and "Encyclopedia".

HANDS-ON PART (30 minutes)

In the first 5 minutes of the first hour, students as research protagonists, individually on their computer, research the countries in which the Enlightenment movement was particularly developed as well as the regimes of these countries when the Enlightenment movement emerged. The results of their research will be presented in a table created with digital tools such as Microsoft Word.

With the results of the research (countries such as England, USA, France, Netherlands, Russia, Austria) students are divided into 6 groups of 4 and each group is assigned to research a country in which the Enlightenment movement appeared.

For the next 25 minutes of the hour, the groups research and answer the question given to them in relation to what type of government existed in the country each group was assigned to (autocracy, glorious revolution/parliamentarism, dutch republic, feudal system) before the enlightenment movement. They then look at the new political positions of political philosophers and what implications the Enlightenment ideas had in relation to political organisation after the Enlightenment. They find representatives of each country (their names and pictures) and quote their views through sources found on the internet (with the direction of the teacher in order for them to be credible).

Finally, they record the results of their research in the collaborative tool Google Docs and list the sources they used. Each group will include in their research results the map and flag of the country they are investigating as well as images of the Enlightenment thinkers who have expressed political ideas in that country in order to gain insight into its geographical location and understand the timelessness of the political ideas that have been expressed and influenced the constitutions of modern states.

EXERCISE PART (90 minutes)

1. The class will be divided into 6 groups and each of them will explore one of the Enlightenment's positions on Education, Science, Civil Rights, Religion, Economy, Dissemination - impact on human society to date. The group will look for the main representatives of each field and the theories they expressed (they can look for their nationality and photos), as well as what the impact of these ideas was. With the results of the research, they will fill in the worksheets.

2. In the first 35 minutes of the next class, students in groups will present their work to the class. In the next 10 minutes, they will create a mental map on the board with the help of the teacher on the topic of the Enlightenment.

WORKSHEET (in groups)

A) In the country you have been assigned to research, each group should search for and record what kind of government existed before the Enlightenment.

B) What were the new Enlightenment positions on political organisation?

C) How did the political ideas of the Enlightenment influence the political organisation of these states?

D) Who were the representatives of the Enlightenment in your assigned country and what theories did they develop?

E) Look for the map and flag of your country.

F) To what extent the specific political positions of the Enlightenment have influenced and continue to influence the political organisation of modern states (you can use resources from your social science class).

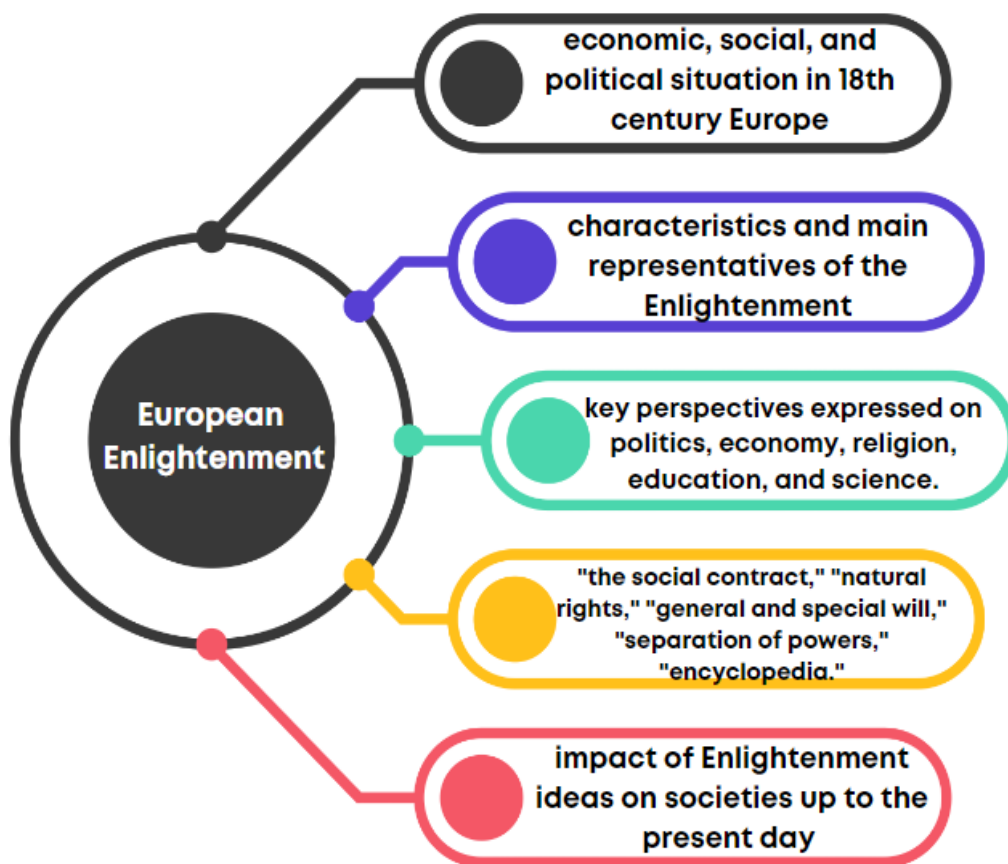
Incorporate images of the representatives you are concerned with, a map and flag of the country and any other multimedia file you think is appropriate.

CONCLUSION (5 minutes)

The Enlightenment laid the foundation for many of the values and principles that shape modern societies, including concepts of individual rights, freedom of thought, and democratic governance. Learning about its ideas helps students comprehend the origins of the principles that underpin their own societies. Furthermore, the Enlightenment was a period of intellectual upheaval that encouraged critical thinking, skepticism, and rational inquiry. Exploring its thinkers and their ideas nurtures students' critical thinking skills, teaching them to evaluate information, question assumptions, and form

reasoned opinions. In essence, learning about the European Enlightenment empowers 15-year-old students with the historical, intellectual, and philosophical tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern world and become informed, engaged citizens who contribute positively to society.

SYNTHESIS/SUMMARY (5 minutes)



BIBLIOGRAPHY & RESOURCES

Captivating history. (2021, October 24). *Age of Enlightenment: The Age of Reason Explained* [video]. Youtube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ef0erm_kqi