

Name _____

Enlightenment Unveiled: A Journey into Intellectual Awakening

Short Answer Key

1. The key principles and beliefs of the Enlightenment included a celebration of reason, science, and human rights. Enlightenment thinkers believed in the power of reason and empirical observation to understand the world and improve society. They emphasized the value of individual rights, free speech, and open dialogue.
2. Voltaire contributed to the Enlightenment by using his wit and pen to criticize intolerance, superstition, and abuses of power. His quote about free speech signified his commitment to defending the right of others to express their opinions, even if he disagreed with them. It reflected the Enlightenment value of open discourse and tolerance of diverse ideas.
3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau's work, "The Social Contract," was significant in the Enlightenment as it questioned the legitimacy of absolute monarchy and proposed a more equitable social contract between citizens and the state. Rousseau argued that political authority should be based on the general will of the people, reflecting the Enlightenment emphasis on democratic principles.
4. Isaac Newton's scientific discoveries, particularly his laws of motion and universal gravitation, aligned with the Enlightenment's emphasis on empirical observation and experimentation. These principles demonstrated that the physical world could be understood through systematic observation and measurement, inspiring Enlightenment thinkers to apply similar methods to social and political realms.
5. The major historical events influenced by Enlightenment principles mentioned in the story were the American and French Revolutions. These events promoted ideals of liberty, equality, and the rights of man. The American Revolution led to the Declaration of Independence, and the French Revolution resulted in the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, both of which drew inspiration from Enlightenment principles of individual rights and democratic governance.

