

Lesson Plan

# Contemporary History Pre-1900: Enlightenment

## Length

One 45-minute period

## Grade Level

High School

## Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify Enlightenment ideas in a modern context.

[What Is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?](#)

[Essential Events Before 1900](#)

[Contemporary History Pre-1900 High School Questions](#)

[Guided Reading Handout](#)

[Presentation](#)

## Homework

- Read [What is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?](#) and complete the guided reading handout.

## Class Plan

1. **(10 Minutes) Debrief Homework**, focusing in particular on reviewing and defining the five influential ideas identified in the reading:
  1. Opposition to absolute monarchy
  2. Separation of powers
  3. Liberty and individual rights
  4. Equality
  5. Free-market capitalism
2. **(20 minutes) A Look at Op-Eds:** In groups, have students peruse Op-Ed articles and identify one that argues for (or against!) one of the five influential ideas.
3. **(15 minutes) Activity:** Have each group post to a Padlet, Google Jamboard, or similar tool, where they:
  1. Include link to the op-ed article they found
  2. Identify the main argument of the op-ed
  3. Identify which of the five Enlightenment ideas is being discussed
  4. Support these identifications with quotations