

Reading Guide for John Locke, **Declaration of Independence**, Enlightenment Reading  
Pgs. 159-160 in OAT Booklet

1. According to the book, what was the purpose of the **Declaration of Independence**?

It was an argument that supported American independence from Britain

2. What is the Enlightenment? What did Enlightenment thinkers attempt to use?

It was a movement of ideas in the 17th-18th centuries that used reasoning and science.

3. What type of rule did Enlightenment thinkers question? Define this term.

They questioned divine right to rule, which meant that God gave rulers the right to rule.

4. Which Enlightenment thinker had the greatest impact on the Thomas Jefferson in writing the Declaration of Independence?

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John Locke had the greatest impact.

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5. What is the “state of nature”? According to the booklet, did people have an easy life in this “state of nature”?

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It is life before government and law where people lived in constant fear of being harmed and attacked.

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6. According to the booklet, why did people create government?

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People created governments (and gave up some freedoms) to protect themselves from harm.

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7. According to Jefferson, why did American Colonists have the right to break away from the British Government?

They could break from England because the King and Parliament violated their natural rights.

8. What are **Natural Rights**?

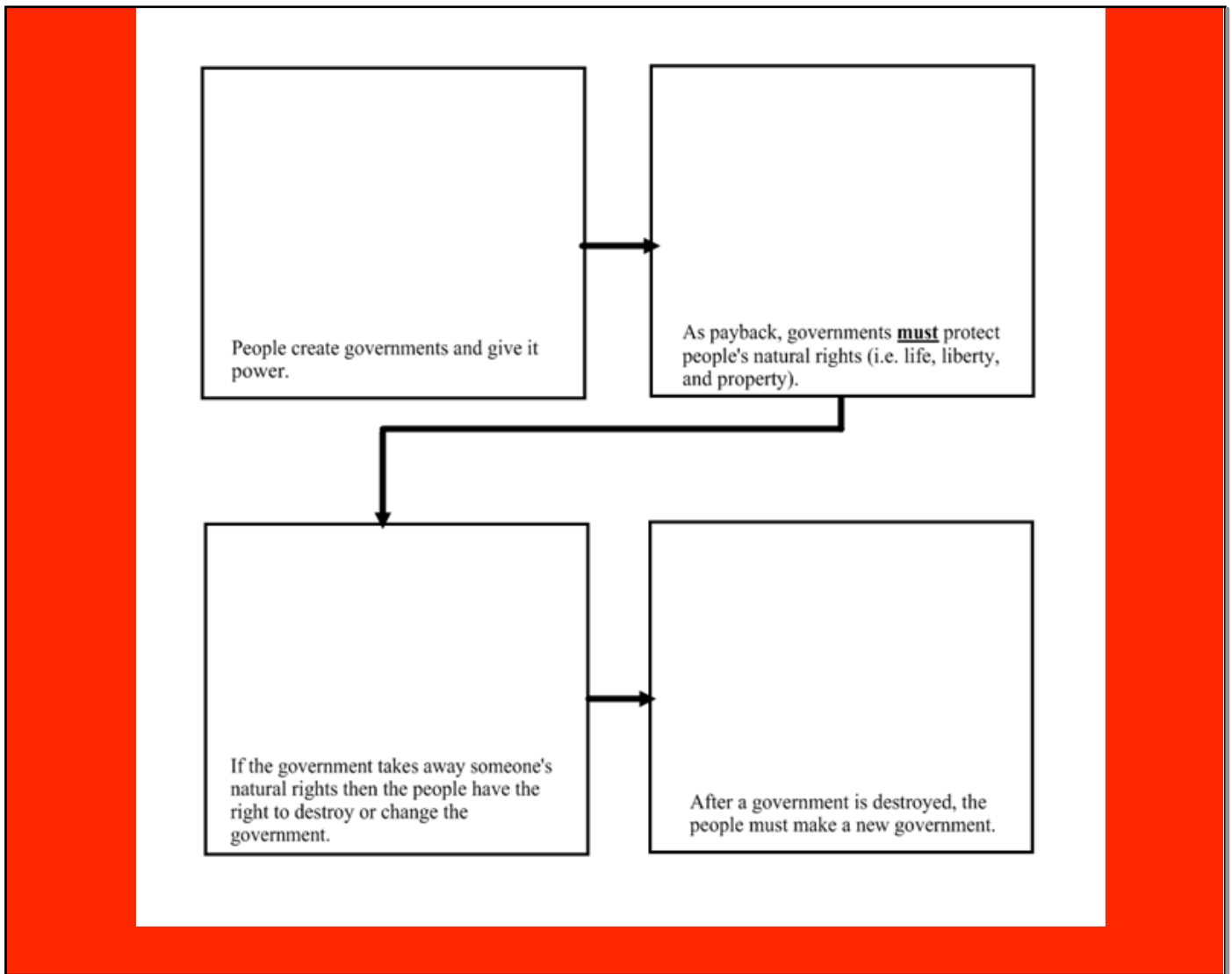
Natural Rights are life, liberty, and property - given by our Creator and no one can take away.

9. According to the Declaration of Independence, what is the main purpose of government?

The main purpose of government is to protect our rights.

10. What type of government did the Declaration of Independence propose?

Jefferson proposed a democracy.



Reading Guide for Enlightenment Thinkers

1. "Starting in the late 1600s, a group of European thinkers came to believe that all problems could be solved by human reason." What do you think the following statement means?

Humans could reason out solutions to the world's problems - including government problems

2. According to John Locke, all people have **Natural Rights**. What are **Natural Rights**? What are the examples of **Natural Rights** given in the text?

Natural Rights: \_\_\_\_\_

Natural rights are rights given to us at birth

Ex.: 1. Life

2. Liberty

3. Property

3. According to Locke, where do **Natural Rights** come from?

Our Creator - God

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. According to Locke, why do people form governments?

People form governments to protect their natural rights

5. How are **Natural Rights** different than **Divine Right**?

Under N.R.'s, people give the government power.  
Under D.R.'s, God gives the ruler power.

6. Paragraph #3 on Locke deals with the **Social Contract**. Summarize the social contract between people and the government?

People give governments power to protect their rights. If the government violates people's rights then they can overthrow the government

7. What did Baron de Montesquieu believe about the power of government?

Montesquieu believed government's power should be clearly defined and limited.

8. What are **Separation of Powers**, and what are their purposes?

Definition: The division of government's power into 3 separate branches.

Purpose: It keeps the government from gaining too much power

9. What branches of government did Montesquieu suggest?

1. Executive

2. Legislative

3. Judicial

10. Based upon your understanding of Locke and Montesquieu, did Enlightenment thinkers trust or mistrust monarchies? Why?

They mistrusted the government, because they seemed highly focused on limiting the power and strength of government

11. Examine the 1<sup>st</sup> section of Declaration of Independence and the beliefs of Locke and Montesquieu. Which philosopher has the greatest impact on the ideas of the Declaration?

Declaration of Independence	John Locke	Baron de Montesquieu

Summary: Who had the most influence on the Declaration of Independence?

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Reading Guide for John Locke and Baron de Montesquieu

1. Look up Enlightenment in your textbook, what types of ideas originated out of the Enlightenment period?

The ideas of reasoning and science to explain the world as well as democratic forms of government became popular.

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2. According to Locke, what do people give up when transitioning from a State of Nature to an organized society ruled by government?

People give up some of their freedoms.

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3. According to Locke, what is the purpose of the legislature, judges, and executive (execution)?

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The purpose is to protect people's natural rights.

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4. The purpose of government is to guarantee "to no other end but the life, liberty, and property \_\_\_\_\_ of the people." Do you agree with Locke's words? Why or why not?

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5. According to Locke, why do "Men" enter society (create governments)?

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People create governments to protect their natural rights

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6. John Locke came up with the idea of the **Social Contract**. Part of the social contract pertains to the idea of **Natural Rights**. According to Locke, under what conditions do people have the right to break from their government? Do you agree with Locke?

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People have the right to break away when a government takes away people's natural rights.

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7. According to Montesquieu, "to prevent abuse [of government], it is necessary . . . that power should be a check to power . . . In every government there are three sorts of powers."

8. Montesquieu originated the idea of checks and balances and three branches of government. Using your textbook, what are the 3 branches and what power does each possess?

Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

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9. According to Montesquieu, what happens if the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person?

Liberties of the people become limited and  
governments' become tyrannical

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10. What type(s) of government does Montesquieu seem to be against? Be specific.

Montesquieu is against monarchies  
or any government with a single  
ruler.

11. Looking at the ideas of Locke and Montesquieu, which philosopher had the greatest impact on the Declaration of Independence?

Locke had the greatest impact on  
the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson used Locke's ideas of  
natural rights, social contract, and  
democratic rule.