



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 7.11**

The Age of Exploration and the Enlightenment (1500s–1700s)

Overall Objective: Analyze the political and economic change in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries (the Age of Exploration, the enlightenment, and the Age of Reason).

Read the summary charts below to answer questions on the next page.

Age of Exploration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better ships, instruments such as the magnetic compass and astrolabe, and more accurate maps led to explorers' being able to make longer voyages more easily.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European desire for spices and silks led to efforts to find shorter routes to Asia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Portuguese sailor Bartolomeu Dias first sailed around the tip of Africa. — Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed to Asia by going around Africa. — Columbus tried a western route that led him to the Americas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portuguese led the trade of spices and other goods between Europe and Asia.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goods and ideas were exchanged across the Atlantic in a movement known as the Columbian Exchange.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease spread by Europeans in the Americas killed over 20 million Native Americans.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trans-Atlantic slave trade was begun.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European countries competed for colonies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonization brought changes to the European economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — New wealth encouraged the growth of cottage industries and capitalism, private ownership of resources and the use of those resources. — Countries adopted mercantilism, which called for a favorable balance of trade and the discovery of rich natural resources to increase a country's wealth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Europeans' worldview changed as they learned more about lands beyond the Atlantic and shifted their focus away from Asia.
The Enlightenment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People applied the scientific approach to society.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political scientists and philosophers put forth new ideas about government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — John Locke believed that people consent to be governed in return for the protection of their natural rights. — Voltaire was for freedom of speech and people's right to liberty. — Montesquieu advised separation of powers. — Rousseau wanted democracy and people's right to choose their government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlightenment ideas swept across Europe.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salons, gatherings of intellectuals, spread enlightenment thinking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlightenment thought led women like Mary Wollstonecraft to call for reform.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic ideas spread to colonial America.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlightened rulers, such as Frederick II of Prussia, Joseph II of Austria, and Catherine the Great of Russia, tried reforms.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans declared independence and created a republic based on Enlightenment ideas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic ideas in the English Bill of Rights became a model for the U.S. Bill of Rights.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen</i> was adopted during the French Revolution.

