

name: class: date:

Enlightenment Ideas in Early America



The Enlightenment was a period of intellectual ferment that _____ reason, science, and individualism over tradition. It deeply influenced the founding fathers of the _____, who drew upon its ideas in crafting the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Benjamin _____ was a key figure of this era, embodying the Enlightenment's ideals through his inventions, writings, and diplomatic efforts. Thomas _____, author of the Declaration of Independence, was another significant figure who advocated for liberty and democracy. The Enlightenment encouraged a belief in progress and the power of _____ reasoning to solve society's problems. This era also saw the emergence of early American _____, which began to express these new ideas about government, freedom, and human rights. Writers like _____ Wheatley and Thomas Paine contributed to a growing American literary identity that was distinct from European traditions. Wheatley, an enslaved African American woman, used her _____ to discuss themes of freedom and equality, showing the influence of Enlightenment thought on individuals from all walks of life. Paine's "Common Sense" and "The Rights of Man" were pivotal in shaping public opinion and the political landscape of the time. The Enlightenment's impact on early American literature was profound, offering a new lens through which to view human potential and societal _____. Its legacy can be seen in the emphasis on individual rights and the democratic ideals that continue to shape the United _____ today.

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