

name: _____

class: _____

date: _____

Key Figures of the Age of Reason



The Age of Reason, part of the larger _____ movement, was a period of intellectual awakening that swept through Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. During this time, thinkers and writers challenged traditional ideas and emphasized _____ over superstition. One of the central figures of this era was _____, a French writer known for his wit and criticism of the Catholic Church. His works, like "Candide," mocked the prevailing optimism of the day.

In England, _____ advocated the idea of the social contract and influenced political thought. He argued that government's legitimacy comes from the consent of the _____. Meanwhile, in Germany, _____ explored the limits of human understanding and the role of individual freedom. His philosophy emphasized the importance of personal _____.

Literature during the Enlightenment was not just about philosophy. Writers like _____ used satire to critique society and politics. His famous work, "Gulliver's Travels," is a brilliant example of this technique. In France, _____ compiled the Encyclopédie, an ambitious project that aimed to collect and disseminate _____.

Women also played a role in the Enlightenment. _____, an English writer, advocated for women's rights in her work "A Vindication of the Rights of _____." She argued that women are not naturally inferior to men but are only seemed so because of the lack of _____.

The Age of Reason ultimately paved the way for the _____ Revolution and the modern world. It challenged old structures and opened up new ways of thinking about society, government, and human _____. This era left an indelible mark on literature and the broader culture, influencing how we think about freedom and justice even today.

Locke

Swift

reason

rights

Voltaire

Diderot

knowledge

French

education

governed

Enlightenment

Kant

autonomy

Wollstonecraft

Woman