

Natural Freedom

Scientific Revolution and The Enlightenment:



Questions to keep in mind

1. How should we read works of non-fiction (e.g., science, etc.) differently than we read works of non-fiction (e.g., poetry, etc.)?
2. How is freedom natural?
3. How are science and religion related to freedom?

The Flushing Remonstrance, 1657

In 1645, the settlement of Vlissengen (known today as Flushing, Queens) became part of New Netherland. Largely settled by English families, Vlissengen proved to be fertile ground for Quakers who were persecuted at home in England. Quaker religious teachings spread throughout Vlissengen and Long Island, threatening the dominance of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Netherland. Consequently, Peter Stuyvesant, the governor of New Netherland, forbade colonists from allowing Quaker meetings to be held in any home.

A Flushing colonist held a Quaker meeting in his home, and he was fined and banished. Flushing citizens protested, and in 1657 they wrote a demand for religious freedom that is today known as the Flushing Remonstrance. Today, the Flushing Remonstrance is regarded as the precursor to the U.S. Constitution's provision on freedom of religion on the Bill of Rights.

The Flushing Remonstrance

Right Honorable

You have been pleased to send unto us a certain prohibition or command that **we should not receive or entertain any of those people called Quakers because they are supposed to be, by some, seducers of the people. For our part we cannot condemn them in this case,** neither can we stretch out our hands against them, for out of Christ God is a consuming fire, and it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Wee desire therefore in this case not to judge least we be judged, neither to condemn least we be condemned, but rather let every man stand or fall to his own Master. Wee are bounde by the law to do good unto all men, especially to those of the household of faith. And though for the present we seem to be unsensible for the law and the Law giver, yet when death and the Law assault us, if wee have our advocate to seeke, who shall plead for us in this case of conscience betwixt God and our own souls; the powers of this world can neither attach us, neither excuse us, for if God justifie who can condemn and if God condemn there is none can justifie.

And for those jealousies and suspicions which some have of them, that they are destructive unto Magistracy and Ministrye, that cannot bee, for the Magistrate hath his sword in his hand and the Minister hath the sword in his hand, as witness those two great examples, which all Magistrates and Ministers are to follow, Moses and Christ, whom God raised up maintained and defended against all enemies both of flesh and spirit; and therefore that of God will stand, and that which is of man will come to nothing. And as the Lord hath taught Moses or the civil power to give an outward liberty in the state, by the law written in his heart designed for the good of all, and can truly judge who is good, who is evil, who is true and who is false, and can pass definitive sentence of life or death against that man which arises up against the fundamental law of the States General; soe he hath made his ministers a savor of life unto life and a savor of death unto death.

The law of love, peace and liberty in the states extending to Jews, Turks and Egyptians, as they are considered sons of Adam, which is the glory of the outward state of Holland, soe love, peace and liberty, extending to all in Christ Jesus, condemns hatred, war and bondage. And because our Saviour sayeth it is impossible but that offences will come, but woe unto him by whom they cometh, our desire is not to offend one of his little ones, in whatsoever form, name or title hee appears in, whether Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist or Quaker, but shall be glad to see anything of God in any of them, desiring to doe unto all men as we desire all men should doe unto us, which is the true law both of Church and State; for our Saviour sayeth this is the law and the prophets.

Therefore if any of these said persons come in love unto us, we cannot in conscience lay violent hands upon them, but give them free egress and regress unto our Town, and houses, as God shall persuade our consciences, for we are bounde by the law of God and man to doe good unto all men and evil to noe man. And this is according to the patent and charter of our Towne, given unto us in the name of the States General, which we are not willing to infringe, and violate, but shall houlde to our patent and shall remaine, your humble subjects, the inhabitants of Vlissing.

Written this 27th of December in the year 1657, by mee.

Edward Hart, Clericus

According to the Flushing Remonstrance,...

What does it say about the "law of God" versus the "law of man"?

Why are the Flushing residents writing this letter?

How do you think this letter will be received?

How does this letter illustrate freedom and democracy?

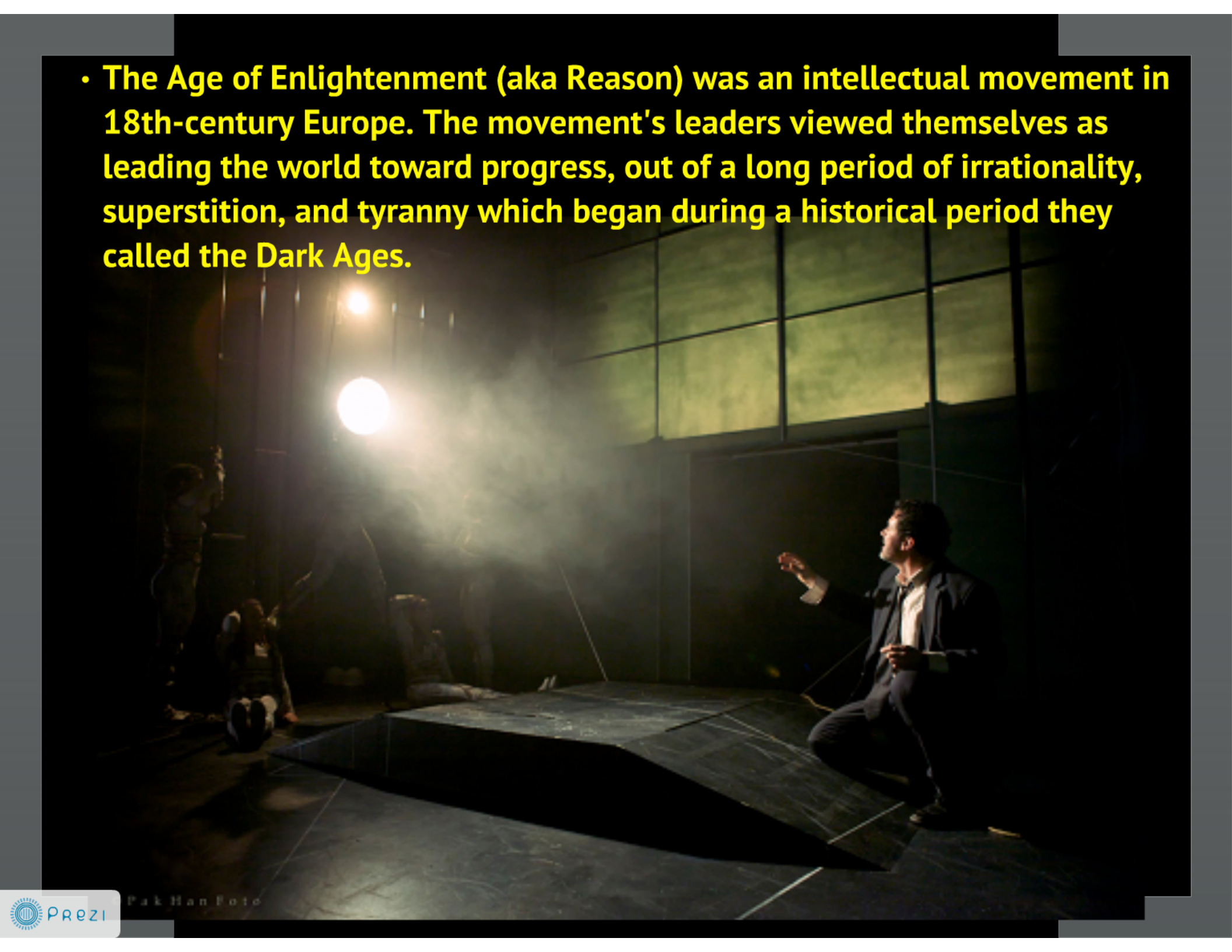
How is this letter like the Declaration of Independence?

How do the writers "seem to be unsensible"?



YouTube

- **The Age of Enlightenment (aka Reason) was an intellectual movement in 18th-century Europe. The movement's leaders viewed themselves as leading the world toward progress, out of a long period of irrationality, superstition, and tyranny which began during a historical period they called the Dark Ages.**



Quiz

Where did the Scientific Revolution take place? **Europe**

When did the Scientific Revolution begin? **mid 1500s**

Describe scientific thinking. **Science is based on the scientific method, a process of testing ideas by using logic and reason**

How is imagination related to superstition vs science?
Creativity/Imagination is needed for both

Explain how "necessity the mother of invention" in history and today in America. **Examples: Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb to read in the dark, someone invented the cushy bike seat to feel comfort.**

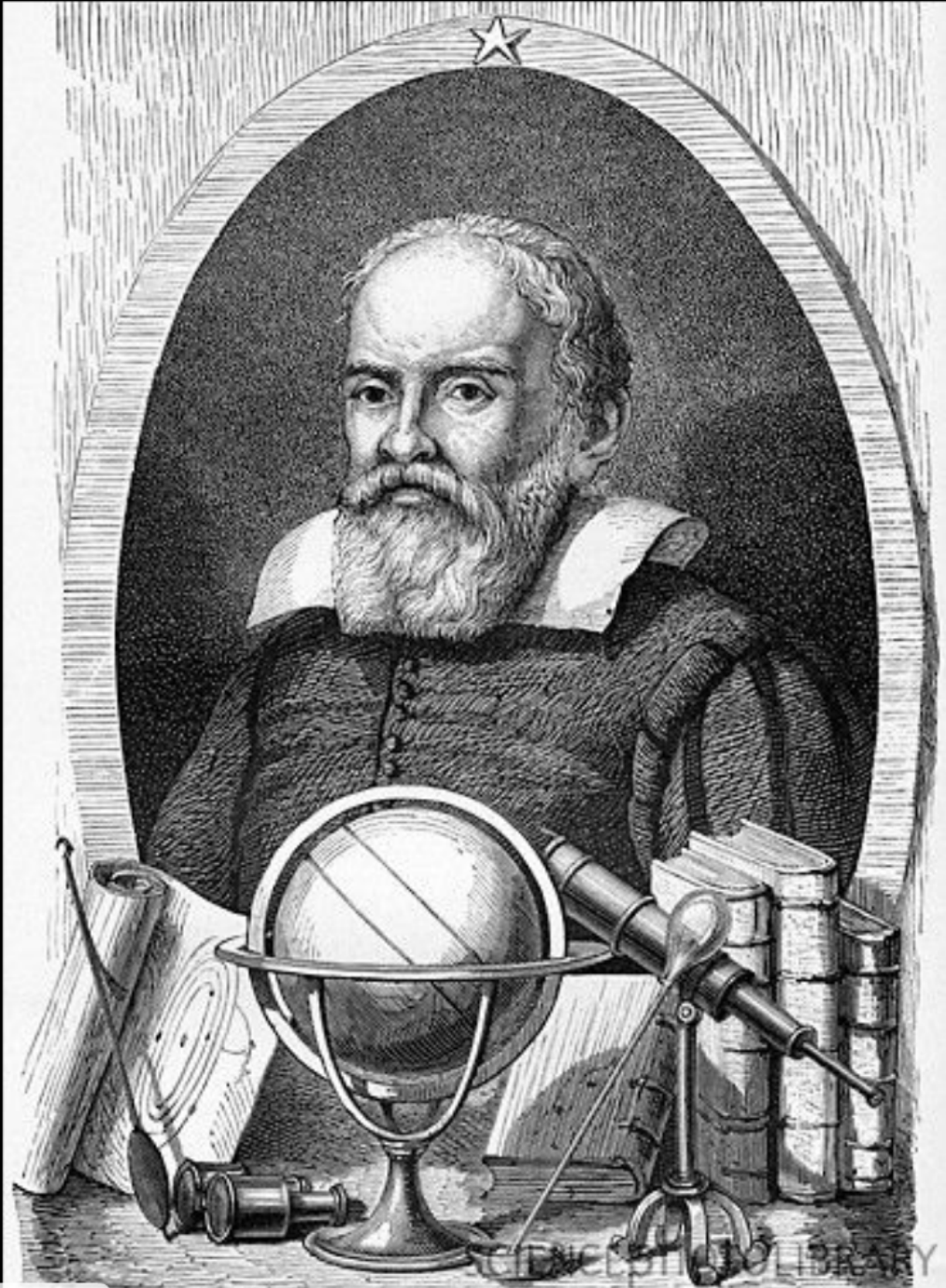
In what way did scientific thinking influence politics?
Declaration of Independence

How did revolutionary ideas meet resistance from traditional authority and what is traditional authority? **The Church arrested people like Galileo**

A black and white close-up portrait of Albert Einstein, showing his characteristic wild, white hair and a mustache. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

*Science without religion is lame, religion
without science is blind.*

How are both "ways" important?



"The Bible shows the way to go to heaven, not the way heavens go"- Galileo Galilei

How is this symbol scientific and/or religious?



Listen to Stevie Wonder sing "Free" and look carefully at the images and read the lyrics.

What kind of freedom does this song refer to?

Use the examples from the video to explain what freedom means to Stevie Wonder.

What does this song say about religion or science, if anything?

Does it consider freedom to be a right one is born with, something one has to work on getting, a combination, etc.?

Use the lyrics to defend your interpretation.

Homework: Mini-Biography

Choose a scientist from below and write a 1-2 page biographical essay describing their religious lives and scientific contributions.

Renee Descartes

Sir Isaac Newton

Albert Einstein

Johannes Kepler

Galileo Galilei

Interview Project: Interview a clergy person (minister, etc.) or a science person (teacher, researcher, etc.) and record their answers to the questions below. Finally, write a 1-2 page biographical essay restating.
(Due one week from today)

1. Do you consider yourself to be secular and/or religious and why?
2. What do you know about different religious traditions?
3. What do you know about different sciences?
4. Do you see a conflict between science and religion?
5. How did/do you learn about/study religion in your life?
6. How did/do you learn about/study science in your life?
7. How old are you?
8. Where were you raised?
9. Do you have children?
10. If you do have children, have you passed on any kind of religious practice or teaching to them?