



# Vocabulary Activity

## The Enlightenment and Revolutions

### Content Vocabulary

**Directions:** Answer each of the following questions about the Enlightenment and revolutions. Include in your answer the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses.

1. Explain the difference between a geocentric and a heliocentric view of the universe.

**(geocentric, heliocentric)**

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2. What is the universal law of gravitation? **(universal law of gravitation)**

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3. How did the rise of rationalism pave the way for the Scientific Revolution?

**(rationalism)**

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4. Explain why inductive reasoning is necessary to the scientific method. **(inductive reasoning, scientific method)**

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5. The term *laissez-faire* literally means "to let (people) do (as they choose)." Explain how *laissez-faire* illustrates the principle of letting people do what they want.

**(laissez-faire)**

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6. The term *rococo* comes from a French word, *rocaille*, referring to flowing leaf, shell, and scroll shapes used in decoration. Why do you think flowing, organic shapes would be a key feature of an art form that is viewed as "secular"? **(rococo)**

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7. Explain the federal system's separation of powers. **(separation of powers, federal system)**

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**Vocabulary Activity Cont.****The Enlightenment and Revolutions**

**Directions:** For each word in the left column, write the letter of its correct definition from the right column. (**philosophe, salons, successor, enlightened absolutism, social contract, deism**)

|       |                                   |   |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|
| _____ | <b>8. philosophe</b>              | a. religious philosophy based on reason and law   |
| _____ | <b>9. salons</b>                  | b. an agreement between a community and its ruler that defines and limits the rights and duties of each |
| _____ | <b>10. successor</b>              | c. the idea that monarchs could govern by Enlightenment principles while maintaining their royal power  |
| _____ | <b>11. enlightened absolutism</b> | d. an eighteenth-century writer and thinker   |
| _____ | <b>12. social contract</b>        | e. gatherings of thinkers held at a prominent person's home   |
| _____ | <b>13. deism</b>                  | f. one that follows, especially to a throne or an office  |

**Academic Vocabulary**

**Directions:** Read the following sentences. If the underlined word is used correctly in the sentence, write **C** in the first blank. If the word is used incorrectly, write **I**. Then, on the line provided, explain why the word is used incorrectly. Include the vocabulary word in parentheses in your explanation.

\_\_\_\_\_ **14.** He was an arbitrary ruler; he never made any judgments or decisions without first giving his subjects the opportunity to vote in elections.

**(arbitrary)**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **15.** These ideas only lasted for generations; they did not survive for more than a few years. **(generations)**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **16.** The scientists of the Middle Ages saw the universe as a series of concentric spheres, squares that fit one inside the other, like boxes within boxes. **(spheres)**

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## Vocabulary Activity *Cont.*

### The Enlightenment and Revolutions

- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. In the Middle Ages, scientists were called "natural philosophers."  
**(philosophers)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Some countries have a rigid social structure in which it is possible for people from the lower classes to move to the middle or even upper classes. **(rigid)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Before the U.S. Constitution was written, a number of amendments had to be proposed first. **(amendments)**  
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. When rights are guaranteed, they are temporary and can be revoked at any time. **(guaranteed)**  
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- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. She knew her policy of favoring the landed nobility would eventually lead to rebellion; in the end, the Russian peasants could only take so much.  
**(eventually)**  
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