

In Depth: The Enlightenment 1

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Read each section and answer the multiple choice questions for each section. Each question may have multiple answers. Circle all letters that apply.

Middle Ages

Historians placed the beginning of the Middle Ages after the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century C.E. Europe plunged into a period of uncertainty marked by unstable kingdoms, absolute monarchies, plague, poverty, and religious rule that lasted until the 15th century with the emergence of the Renaissance. The one stable institution that survived Rome and gave guidance to Europeans was the Roman Catholic Church.

The Church had incredible power. It approved of the divine right of kings—doctrine that stated monarchs were placed on their thrones to further God’s will; therefore, kings received their authority directly from God. Their rules and actions could not be questioned by anyone and to do so was to question God. This placed an incredible amount of power into the hands of a single individual who frequently became a tyrant that started wars, recklessly spent money, and caused pain and suffering to their own people.

Often the Church controlled or had influence in the politics of a country. Monarchs consulted Church officials, including the Pope, before making important decisions. In some cases, monarchs appointed bishops from the wealthy class of the kingdom’s citizens thus gaining favor from the Church. This relationship with kings allowed the Church many privileges. The Church owned vast stretches of land and collected large sums of money from its followers. It was the richest institution in Europe and it paid no taxes.

1. What was the only institution that kept Europe together? (choose one)
 - B. the monarchs
 - H. the Roman Catholic Church
 - R. the Western Roman Empire
 - Y. the Middle Ages

2. The Church became powerful because... (choose three)

- B. it had a great deal of wealth
- H. it paid no taxes
- R. monarchs sought Church advice on political matters
- Y. it appointed monarchs to power

The Protestant Reformation

After centuries of domination over Europe, the Roman Catholic Church began to suffer from the rot that had grown from corrupt clergy used to a wealthy lifestyle. Augustinian friar Martin Luther questioned the Church practice of selling indulgences—the idea that for a fee the Church could forgive a person’s sins. In 1517, Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses on the Wittenberg Castle church door questioning indulgences and other Church practices. Rejecting much of Luther’s statements as heretical, in 1521, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther from the Church. Luther formed his own Christian religion and received support from several German states who wanted to keep their money at home rather than sending it to Rome. Luther’s followers became known as Protestants because of their “protests” against the Church. Over time, others broke away from the Church to form Protestant religions.

In England, King Henry VIII wanted a divorce as he blamed his wife for not producing a male heir to the throne. Pope Clement VII, in 1527, refused to grant the divorce for religious and political reasons. Angry for not getting his way, Henry VIII replaced the Pope with himself as head of the English church. By 1534, the Church of England became a Protestant church. Rome’s grip on Europe continued to erode as followers went elsewhere.

3. The Catholic Church began to lose power when— (choose two)
 - B. it approved the Ninety-five Theses
 - H. King Henry VIII made himself head of the English church (Anglican church)
 - R. French kings supported Martin Luther
 - Y. Martin Luther formed his own Christian religion

Description: The author describes a topic by listing characteristics, features, and examples.

Sequence: The author lists items or events in numerical or chronological order.

Comparison: The author explains how two or more things are alike and/or how they are different.

Cause and Effect: The author lists one or more causes and the resulting effect or effects.

Problem and Solution: The author states a problem and lists one or more solutions for the problem.

4. Look at the text in the box above. Identify how the information is presented. (choose one answer only)
 - B description
 - H sequence
 - L. comparison
 - R cause and effect
 - Y. problem and solution

The Scientific Revolution

With the Protestant movement growing, the Catholic Church became aggressive toward anyone who opposed its own teachings. According to Church scholars, the universe revolved around the Earth and the heavens were perfect. When scientist Nicolaus Copernicus published in 1543 a book stating the sun was the center of the universe and the Earth revolved around the sun, the Church moved to censor the “ridiculous” theory. In the early 1600s, another scientist Galileo Galilei used a telescope to support Copernicus’ theory that the Earth revolved around the sun. In 1633, the Church accused Galileo of heresy and placed him under house arrest for the rest of his life. Galileo was lucky. The Church had been conducting the Roman Inquisition that saw thousands of people questioned, tortured, and many executed for heresy. Nonetheless, beginning with Copernicus,

the Scientific Revolution had begun and would see other scientists continue to explore the natural world.

Soon, scientists began using a new, systematic approach to learning that became known as the scientific method. Englishman Francis Bacon wrote in 1620 of a method of analysis to learn about nature: (1) create a theory, (2) predict the outcome of a situation, (3) experiment to see what happens, and (4) observe the results to modify or create a new theory. According to Bacon, learning about nature was an ongoing study. His method would be used and modified over the decades by others.

The greatest scientific mind of the age, Englishman Isaac Newton, in 1687 published *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* that explained the basic laws of motion: (1) a body at rest will remain at rest unless acted upon, (2) force equals the mass times acceleration, and (3) for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Newton’s theory showed that nature followed a specific set of rules and that through reason humanity could understand these rules. Clearly, if reason could solve the riddles of nature, then why not apply reason to other areas of human endeavor such as religion, economics, and government. Newton’s discovery ended the Scientific Revolution and began the Enlightenment.

5. A systematic way to analyze nature became known as... (choose one)
 - B. the Scientific Revolution
 - H. the Galileo Method
 - R. the scientific method
 - Y. Newtonian Laws

6. Isaac Newton’s discovery of the laws of motion showed... (choose three)
 - B. the scientific method needed modification
 - H. people could understand nature using reason
 - R. other human endeavors could be analyzed through reason
 - Y. that nature followed a set of rules