What do your beliefs say about you?

01 Discuss your beliefs about the topics below with a classmate.

| Slavery | Religious freedom | The role of the government |

02 Read "Thinking Outside the Box." Match the name of the philosopher to their belief.

1. Locke

2. Voltaire

3. Rousseau

a. Tyranny and injustice must be eliminated to create healthy human communities.

b. Individual liberties must be protected.

c. Healthy societies were devoted to reducing religious inequalities.

03 Read the text again. Complete the summary about Enlightenment thinkers with words in bold from the text.

Enlightenment thinkers broke from earlier thought in that they believed in personal **1.** _____ and religious **2.** _____ . They argued for ridding the world of political and religious **3.** _____ . Philosophers wrote against **4.** _____ and injustices **5.** _____ by current human societies. They believed that humans could live in communities **6.** _____ to harmony.

04 With a classmate, discuss the questions below.

› Which philosopher's beliefs are most similar to your own? Why?
› Which philosopher has had the most significant impact on current thinking? Why?

Thinking Outside the Box

During the Enlightenment, several important philosophers stood out for their revolutionary ideas. Their works influenced nations and future thinkers.

John Locke, an English mid-seventeenth-century thinker, was influential in shaping societies, particularly the United States, a British colony at the time. One novel idea was that the three branches of the government should have separate powers, and another was that one's liberty must be protected from government interference. These principles are based on the idea that humans can intrinsically work together to achieve collective goals and that we will not cause harm to one another's lives, **liberty**, or possessions.

Voltaire, the pen name of François-Marie Arouet, was a French thinker from the eighteenth century who wrote against religious **tyranny**. Born when Protestantism was gaining influence in a mainly Catholic Europe, he believed societies should embrace multiple religions. He thought **tolerance** was essential for healthy societies and required groups to understand that no one could claim an absolute truth.

Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who lived in the mid-eighteenth century, had influential ideas about injustice. He believed that developed societies are full of **inequalities**, such as slavery, and stood against them. Although he recognized that such societies did encourage developments in the arts and sciences, these were not worth the injustices that such societies **inflicted**. While he appreciated that humans couldn't exist without some organization, he ascribed to the idea that individuals should consensually unite into a community **devoted** to the common good.

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05 Write "S" if the first underlined verb occurs simultaneously or before "B" the second verb.

1. Having drawn inspiration from Locke's books, Voltaire wrote his book *Candide*. ☐

2. Having finished reading about Enlightenment philosophers, John moved on to Romanticist writers. ☐

3. Confounded by Voltaire's writings, Mia created a study group. ☐

4. Doing research for her thesis, Janice spent every night at the library. ☐

5. Published in 1762, The Social Contract by Rousseau was prohibited in France. ☐

06 Rewrite the two sentences as one using a participle clause.

1. First Grace wrote her article. Then she sent it to publishers.

_____

_____

2. Elsie reads a lot of philosophy texts. She helps her classmates study.

_____

_____

3. Carlos read several books by Locke. Now he better understands the early political history of the United States.

_____

_____

4. Alan was concerned about mentioning Voltaire's ideas in his religion class because he didn't want to offend anyone.

_____

_____

5. Manuel often ponders historical conflicts while he goes on long walks.

_____

_____

07 Write a Wikipedia entry summarizing the beliefs of one of the three philosophers from the text.

08 Role-play as Enlightenment thinkers. Choose one thinker and debate the following statements from their point of view.

1. The optimal organization of governments

2. The role of the church and state

3. An individual's role in eradicating injustices