

Philosophes: Voltaire vs. Rousseau

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Type of Government

Voltaire

- Constitutional monarchy
- Distrusted democracy
 - Propagated the idiocy of the masses
 - He “would rather obey 1 lion then 200 rats of his own species”

Rousseau

- (Direct) Democracy
- Grew up in Switzerland where adult males had direct vote in a small government
- Distrusted representative democracy
 - “any law which the people has not ratified in person, is void”



Outlook on Life

Voltaire

- People too optimistic
- People intolerant of other ideas
- People foolish

Rousseau

- People want power
- People born good and free
- People who are strong imprison weaker people



Perfect Society

Voltaire

- People must work to make society better
- “Everything happens for the better” is not true
- People must work to perfect society

Rousseau

- If people lived alone on island, society would be perfect
- Government makes a society less perfect



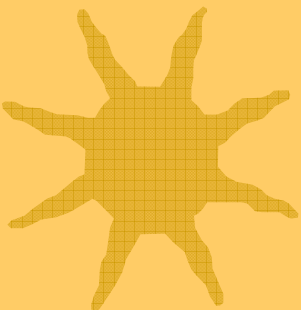
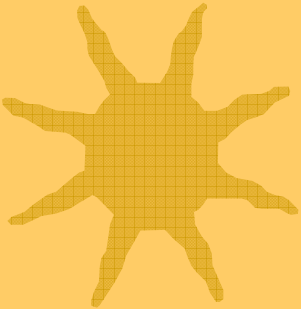
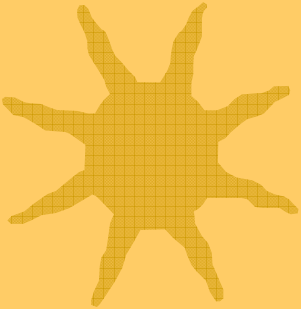
Religion

Voltaire

- Thought the Church controlled too much
- Wanted religious tolerance for all

Rousseau

- No view listed





Book

Voltaire

• *Candide*

- Written under pseudonym and never admitted writing it
- Had a sharp wit, words, and ideas

Rousseau

• *The Social Contract*

- People have direct say in government and sign “social contract”
- Said that government should be ruled by the general will of the people



Their Life

Voltaire

- Educated at Louis-le Grand, a Jesuit college
- Frequently in prison or fleeing the country due to brash remarks
- Wrote many books

Rousseau

- Abandoned during teen years
- Forced apprenticeship to evil engraver
- Sheltered by rich people, who educated him



Their Dates

Voltaire

- Born November 21, 1694 in Paris
- Died in Paris, 1777
 - Denied burial at church
- Wrote book in 1759

Rousseau

- Born in Geneva in 1712
- Died 1778
- Wrote famous book in 1762



Famous Quotes

Voltaire

- “*Écrasez l’infâme!*”
 - Crush the evil thing
- Prejudice = “*opinion without judgment*”
- Wrote over 70 plays and was good with words

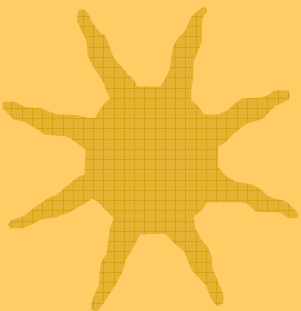
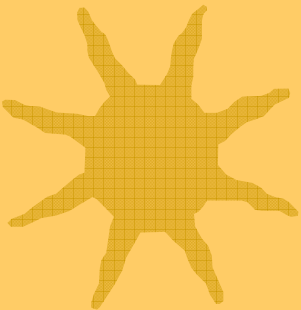
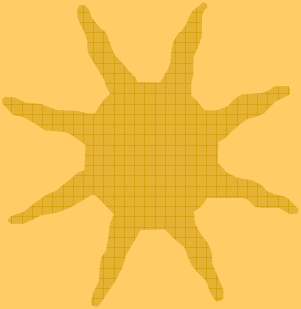
Rousseau

- “Man was born free, and everywhere he is in chains”
- “Any law which the people has not ratified in person; it is not law at all



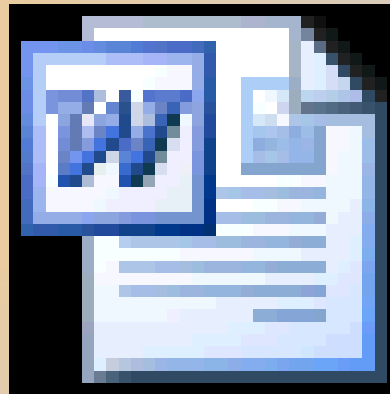
Similarities

- #1 - Both had ideas that went against all other Philosophes
- #2 – Wanted people to be free
- #3 – Both had traditional views on women
- #4 – Spend a lot of time in Paris.

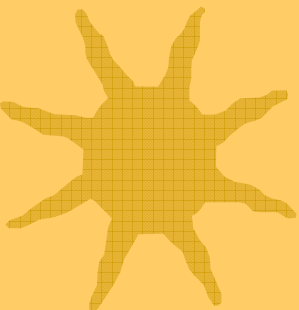
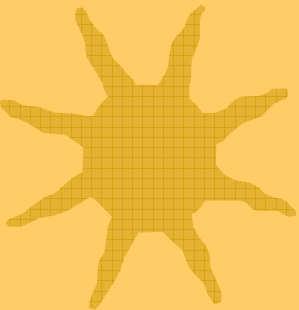
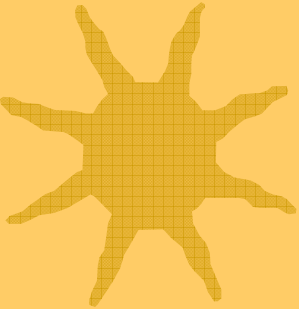




*How did the ideas of the Philosophes
alter society's values?*

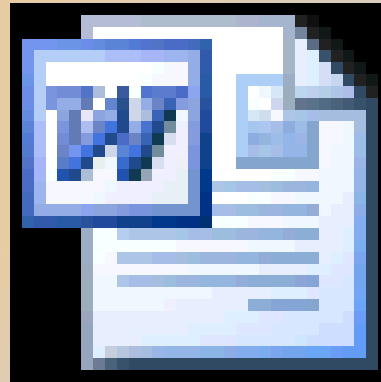
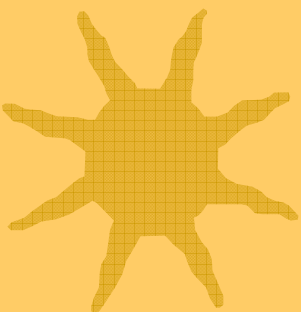
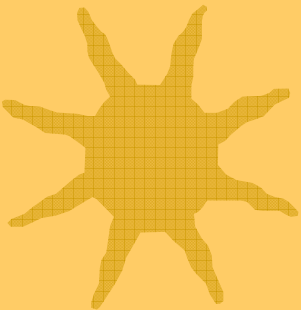
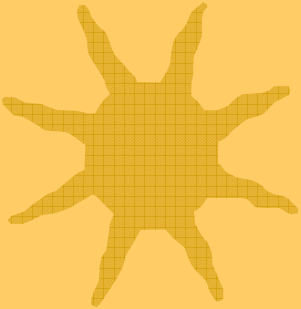


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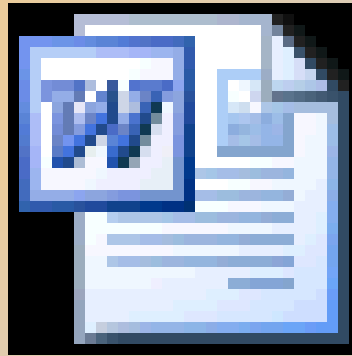
How did the Philosophes' ideas contribute to economic, religious, and political liberty?



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*How did early experiences shape the
Philosophes life?*



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