

WHO BENEFITED?

Purpose

The Enlightenment promoted important ideals such as freedom, equality, and reason. However, not everyone benefited equally. Examine who was included and who was left out. By examining how Enlightenment ideas were applied (or ignored), you'll uncover their lasting impact.

Process

1. Review what you've read in the articles "[The Enlightenment](#)" and "[Sovereignty](#)." Use that information to complete the chart.

Group	What rights or ideals were promised?	Were these ideas actually applied to this group? If not, how were they excluded?	How did these ideas shape the group's future status, rights, or movements?
Enslaved people			
Colonial subjects			
European men			
European women			

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2. Based on the chart, to what extent did the Enlightenment live up to its ideals of reason, freedom, and equality? Use evidence from at least two groups in your chart.

3. Where do we see Enlightenment ideas (such as liberty, equality, natural rights, or separation of powers) showing up in the modern world? Choose a current issue, event, or policy and explain how it reflects (or challenges) these ideas.