enlightenment hexagons

**Absolutism**: a political system in which a single ruler, group, or political party has complete control over a country

**Sun King**: Louis XIV, who ruled France for 72 years

**Social Contract**: an agreement in which people give up rights in exchange for protection from the government.

**Enlightenment**: a philosophical movement that emphasized reason over superstition and science over blind faith

**Scientific Revolution**: a drastic change in scientific thought resulting in new scientific theories

**Heliocentric Theory**: the belief that the planets revolve around the sun

**Geocentric Theory**: the belief that the Earth is at the center of the solar system

**Deism**: the belief that a creator set the universe in motion and then left it alone

**Divine Right**: the belief that a monarch receives the right to rule directly from God

**Philosophe**: the thinkers of the Enlightenment period

**John Locke**: believed that people are born with “inalienable” rights such as life, liberty, and property

**Thomas Hobbes**: believed that people are naturally bad, and a strong ruler is needed to keep order

**Montesquieu**: believed that the government should have three separate and dependent branches

**Jean Jacques Rousseau**: believed that people are naturally good, but corrupted by society

**Adam Smith**: believed in an economic system of free and open trade

**Voltaire**: believed in religious tolerance and that the best government is an enlightened monarch

**Rule of Law**: the belief that no person is above the law, including rulers

**Blank Slate**: the belief that the mind is blank at birth and shaped by experience

**State of Nature**: the existence of humans without an organized government

**Natural Rights**: the rights that all people have and that should not be taken away by the government