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

divine right: the belief that a monarch receives the right to rule directly from God

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

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

social contract: an agreement in which people give up rights in exchange for protection from the government

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

state of nature: the existence of humans without an organized government

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

natural rights: the rights that all people have that should not be taken away by the government