You are cordially invited to attend a Grand Salon

hosted by Monsieur Thomas Kersey

on

Monday, the 31ˢᵗ day of March, in

the year of Our Lord

Two Thousand Eleven.

The rules of polite society will be strictly observed.

The above is an official invitation to participate in our **Enlightenment Salon Simulation**. During the 17th and 18th centuries, salons were social gatherings held by a host or hostess where educated people discussed important topics of the day. During this project you will learn about a great Enlightenment thinker and their opinions, prepare to have an academic conversation on some of the most important ideas of the day, and have a little fun.

Directions

1. Choose one of the great Enlightenment thinkers from the list below. (Some of them aren't technically from the Enlightenment, but you get the idea). Use infohio.org to research and become an expert on them. This will be the character you will portray during our salon, so you'll need to learn as much as you can and use your imagination for the rest.

Thomas Hobbes	Adam Smith	Olympe de Gouges
John Locke	Mary Wollstonecraft	Thomas Jefferson
Charles Montesquieu	Catherine the Great	Sir Isaac Newton
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Thomas Jefferson	Immanuel Kant
Nicholas Copernicus	Denis Diderot	David Hume
Francis Bacon	Abigail Adams	
Galileo Galilei	Benjamin Franklin	
René Descartes	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	
Voltaire		

2. In addition to being an expert on your character's biography and personal beliefs, you should be ready to discuss the following topics during the salon:

1. What is your character's definition of *justice*?
2. What is your character's view of the relationship between government and the individual?
3. What is your character's view of the role of the ruler as servant of the people, and vice versa?
4. What does your character think of the rights possessed by the people (such as natural rights, or equal rights for men and women)?
5. Is government is a positive good, a necessary evil, or an abomination?
6. What are your character's attitudes toward such specific topics as religion, social classes, education, the right to revolt, and religious wars?

These were common topics of discussion at salons. *You may not find a lot of information on the above topics for your character, but you should learn enough about your person to guess what they may have thought. Do your best.*

You may need to use a dictionary to make sure you understand the terms used above.

3. On March 31 our classroom will be transformed into an elegant and comfortable social environment (well, sort of). You will join your fellow Enlightenment thinkers to discuss the above topics in character. To make conversation a little easier, you will be given topic cards to help guide the discussion. It is perfectly okay to disagree with your fellow guests – that's the point - as long as you are polite and explain why you disagree.

4. You may dress up as your character if you wish, but you are not required to do so. Of course, dressing up can only help your grade.

Rubric

Your grade will be based on the following criteria. This project applies to the History, People in Societies, and Social Studies Skills and Methods Standards and is worth 30 points for each standard.

Portrayal of Character – You do a good job of acting like the person you researched. You stay in character throughout the salon. You try to respond to others appropriately. You are polite and use your best manners. You are enthusiastic and participate in the salon fully. (10 points)

Content and Conversation – You participate in the conversations, and you are able to speak intelligently about the topics assigned at the salon. The points you make are reasonable and in character. You use evidence to support your character's opinions when possible. (20 points)

Enlightenment Salon Simulation Research Sheet

Use this sheet to help you organize your research for our project. You will still need extra paper. You will be allowed to have this sheet and notes during the simulation.

Name of Enlightenment thinker/character: _____

The background information (history, family, birth date, major achievements, etc.) for my historical figure includes:

Philosophical beliefs (what were the main ideas and beliefs of your Enlightenment thinker?)

My character's opinions on _____ are...

1. the definition of justice

2. the relationship of government to the individual, and vice versa

3. the role of the ruler as servant of the people, and vice versa

4. the rights possessed by the people (such as natural rights)

5. whether government is a positive good, a necessary evil, or an abomination

6. attitudes toward such specific topics as religion, social classes, education, the right to revolt, and religious wars