

Ideas of the Enlightenment**DAILY ACTIVITY****Chapter 4, Section 1**

Directions: Read the quotations below. Then answer the questions.

John Locke on the Enlightenment and Government
(from Locke's *The Second Treatise of Government*)

[That the supreme law is the well-being of the people] is certainly so just and fundamental a rule that he who sincerely follows it cannot dangerously err. If, therefore, the executive who has the power of convoking the legislative . . . regulates, not by old custom but true reason, the number of members in all places that have a right to be distinctly represented . . . it cannot be judged to have set up a new legislative but to have restored the old and true one. . . . For it being the interest as well as intention of the people to have a fair and equal representative, whoever brings it nearest to that is an undoubted friend to and establisher of the government and cannot miss the consent and approbation [approval] of the community. . . . whatsoever shall be done manifestly for the good of the people and the establishing [of] the government upon its true foundations is, and always will be, just prerogative.

Benjamin Franklin on the Enlightenment and Scientific Research

(from *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*)

What gave my book [on lightning] the more sudden and general celebrity, was the success of one of its proposed experiments, made by Messrs. Dalibard and Delor at Marly [France], for drawing lightning from the clouds. This engag'd the public attention every where. M. Delor, who had an apparatus for experimental philosophy, and lectur'd in that branch of science, undertook to repeat what he called the *Philadelphia Experiments*; and, after they were performed before the king and court, all the curious of Paris flocked to see them. I will not swell this narrative with an account of that capital experiment, nor of the infinite pleasure I receiv'd in the success of a similar one I made soon after with a kite at Philadelphia, as both are to be found in the histories of electricity.

Mastering Facts

A. Benjamin Franklin B. John Locke

- _____ 1. Stated that God provided laws of natural rights such as life, liberty, and property for all people

- _____ 2. Was a living example of the Enlightenment as a scientist, inventor, writer, statesman, and diplomat
- _____ 3. Claimed that if rulers become tyrannical, people have the right to overthrow them

Summarizing Main Ideas

4. According to Locke, what should a government's chief concern be?

5. What is the true intention of people, according to Locke?

6. What was a major reason for the success of Franklin's book?

7. Why does Franklin not relate the success of his experiment?

8. Why did Delor call his own work the Philadelphia Experiment?

Predicting Consequences

9. Which man—Benjamin Franklin or John Locke—do you believe has had the greatest influence on later generations? Explain your answer.
