



Lesson #3

The Enlightenment Spreads

The Big Idea

Enlightenment ideas spread through the Western world and profoundly influenced the arts and government.

Why it Matters Today

An “enlightened” problem-solving government and society prevails in modern civilization today.

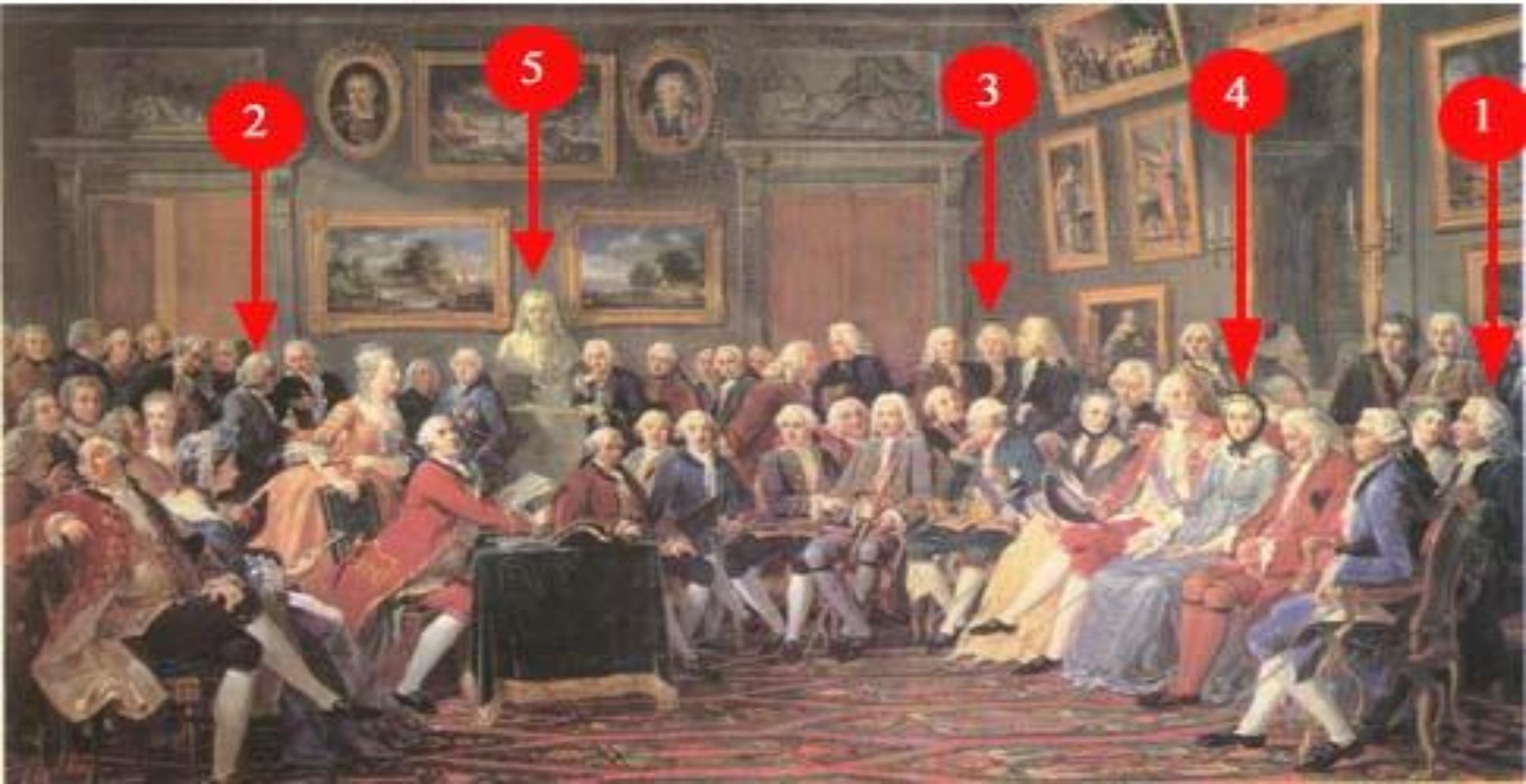
Setting the Stage

- The philosophes' views about society often got them in trouble.
- In France, it was illegal to criticize either the Catholic Church or the government.
- Many philosophes landed in jail or were exiled.
- Nevertheless, the Enlightenment spread throughout Europe with the help of books, magazines, and word of mouth.

A World of Ideas

(Peinture de G. Lemonnier, XVIIIème siècle, Rouen)

Voici le salon de Madame Geoffrin (4). Elle y reçoit des artistes de son époque, comme Montesquieu (1), Diderot (3), Rousseau (2) autour d'un buste de Voltaire (5).



Salons

- **Salons** were informal social gatherings at which writers, artists, *philosophes*, and others exchanged ideas.
- Paris was the cultural and intellectual capital of Europe.
- The buzz of Enlightenment ideas was most intense in the mansions of several wealthy women of Paris.
- The most influential salon hostess was **Marie-Therese Geoffrin**, who helped finance the publication of **Denis Diderot's** large set of books called *Encyclopedia*.

Diderot's *Encyclopedia*

- The first **encyclopedia** volumes were published in 1751.
- The Enlightenment views in these articles angered both the French government and the Catholic Church.
- Their censors banned the work because they felt it undermined royal authority and encouraged a spirit of revolt.
- Nonetheless, Diderot continued to publish his *Encyclopedia* (Freedom of the press).
- The salons and *Encyclopedia* helped spread Enlightenment ideas to educated people all over Europe.
- As a result they began to spread through newspapers, pamphlets, and even political songs.

New Artistic Styles

- The Enlightenment ideals of order and reason were reflected in the arts – music, literature, painting, and architecture.
- European art in the 1600s and early 1700s were dominated by the style called **baroque**.
- Under the influence of the Enlightenment, style began to change.
- Artists and architects worked in a simple and elegant style that borrowed ideas and themes from classical Greece and Rome, known as **neoclassical**.

Baroque Art

Caravaggio,
Supper at Emmaus
1601



- Baroque art is less complex and more realistic. The movement was encouraged by the Catholic Church as a return to tradition and spirituality.

Rococo Art

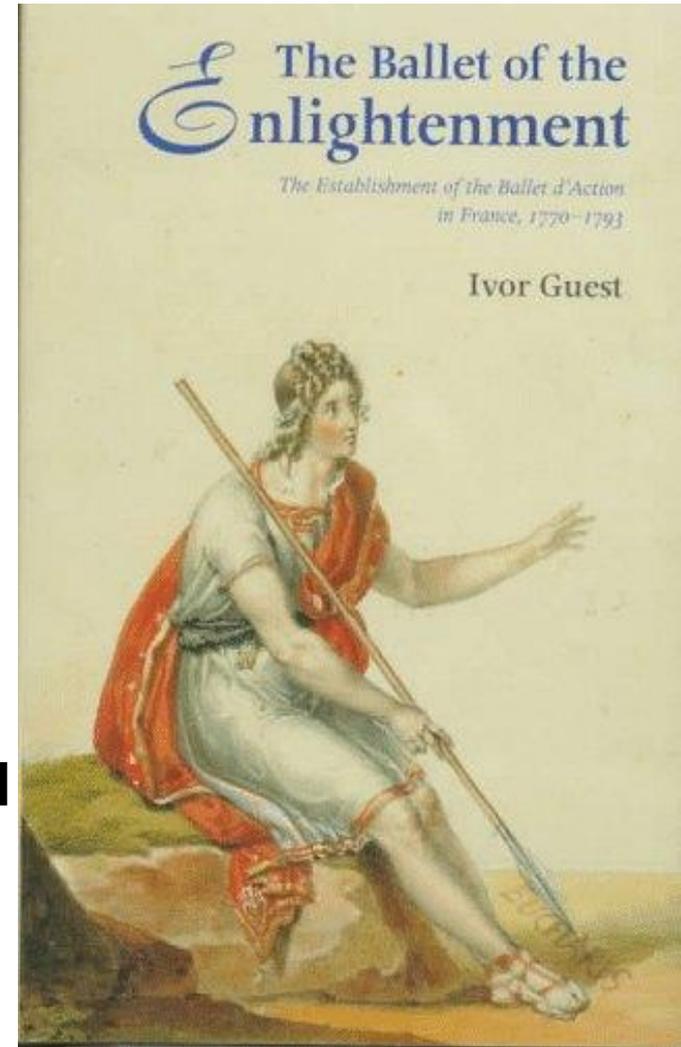
Francois Boucher
The Fountain of Love
1748



- Characterized by elegant, refined yet playful subject matters. Decorative designs were used to illustrate stories.

The Enlightenment Inspires Composers

- The new Enlightenment ideals composers and musicians to develop new forms of music (baroque to rococo).
- An elegant style of “classical” emerged.
- Ballets, operas were performed for the social elite.
- Mozart, The Musical Genius



#5

- As you read about the spread of ideas during the Age of Reason, explain how each of the following people reflected Enlightenment ideas.

1. Mary Astell Pg. 170	1. 2.
2. Mary Wollstonecraft Pg. 170	1. 2.
3. Frederick the Great Pg. 171	1. 2.
4. Joseph II Pg. 172	1. 2.
5. Catherine the Great Pg. 172	1. 2.

#6 Assessment

- *Reading Check*

1. Why did the Catholic Church seek to censor the writings of Enlightenment thinkers? Pg. 167-68
2. How did **baroque** and **neoclassical** architecture differ? Pg. 168
3. Why do you think the issue of education was important to both **Astell & Wollstonecraft**?
Pg. 170
4. How accurately does the term “**enlightened despot**” describe Catherine the Great? Explain.
Pg. 172
5. Why did the Enlightenment not have much impact of the lives of poorer Europeans? Pg. 175