

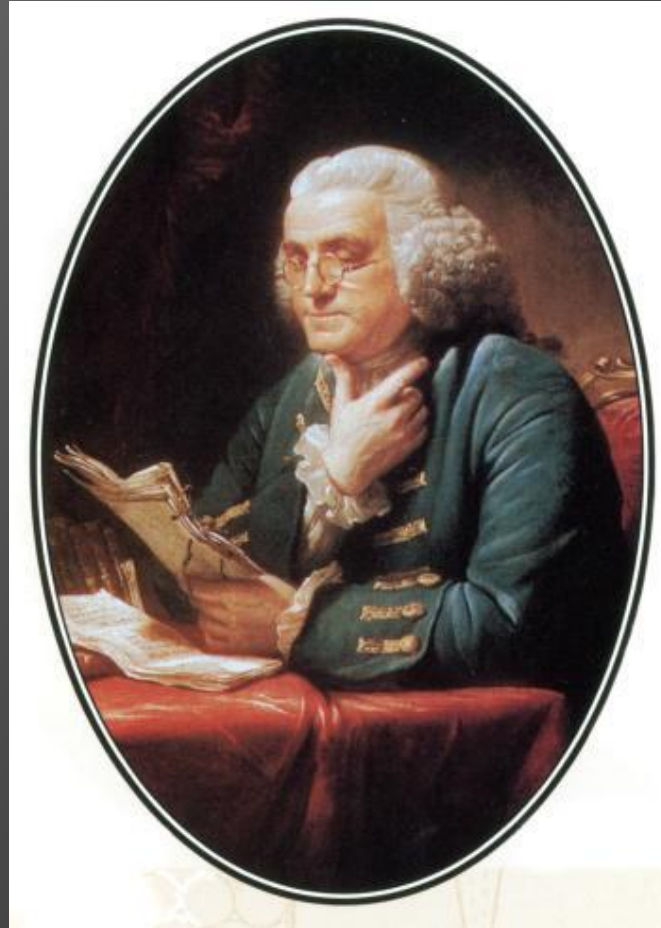
Terms and People

- **public schools** – schools supported by taxes
- **dame schools** – schools that women opened in their homes to teach girls and boys to read and write
- **Anne Bradstreet** – the first colonial poet
- **Phillis Wheatley** – America's first poet of African descent
- **Benjamin Franklin** – a colonial writer, scientist, inventor, businessman, community leader, and diplomat

Terms and People

- **Jonathan Edwards** – a Massachusetts preacher who was a leader in the Great Awakening
- **natural rights** – rights that belong to every human being from birth
- **divine right** – the belief that monarchs get their authority to rule directly from God
- **separation of powers** – division of the power of government into separate branches

COLONIAL CULTURE



Objectives

- Describe the education colonial children received.
- Identify early poetry and literature in colonial America.
- Explain how the Great Awakening affected the colonies.
- Describe how the spread of new ideas affected the colonies.



How did ideas about religion and government influence colonial life?

The Great Awakening, one of the first national movements in the colonies, reinforced democratic ideas.

The Enlightenment informed colonists' ideas about the structure of government and the rights of citizens.

The Puritans passed laws that required towns of a certain size to open schools.



These Massachusetts laws were the beginning of **public schools** in America.



Puritan schools were run with both private and public money.

Puritan laws did not require compulsory education.



Some towns paid a fine rather than set up a school.



Laws that required all children to attend school did not begin until the late 1800s.

Colonial Schools

Religion

- In the 1600s, most schools were under religious sponsorship, and they provided instruction in religion.

Elementary Schools

- Colonial elementary schools taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.
- Children learned from primers called hornbooks and from a 1680s reading book called the *New England Primer*.

Southern Schools

- There were few schools in the South, so the gentry often hired private tutors to teach their children.
- Poor children often received no formal education at all.

Most schools were restricted to white children, but one New York school taught free African Americans, Native Americans, and poor whites.



Some Quaker and Anglican missionaries taught enslaved people to read.



After that was outlawed, some enslaved people taught themselves, while others passed on their knowledge in secret.

Higher Education

Grammar Schools

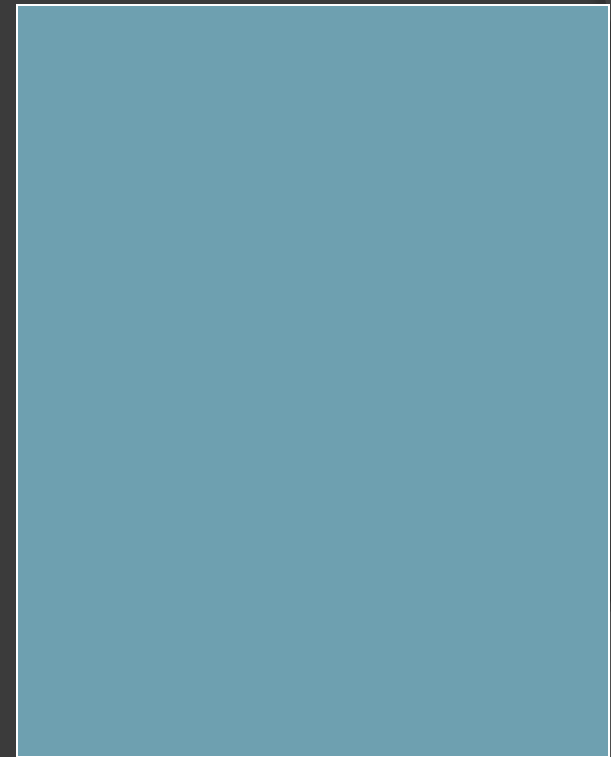
- Some boys went on to grammar schools, which prepared them for college.
- Grammar schools taught Greek, Latin, geography, mathematics, and English composition.

Colleges

- The first American colleges were founded largely to educate men for the ministry.
- Harvard University (1638) was the first college in the English colonies.
- The College of William and Mary (1693) was the first college in the South.

The earliest forms of colonial literature were sermons and histories.

- **Anne Bradstreet** published a book of poetry in 1650.
- **Phillis Wheatley,** an enslaved African in Boston, saw her first poem published in the 1760s.



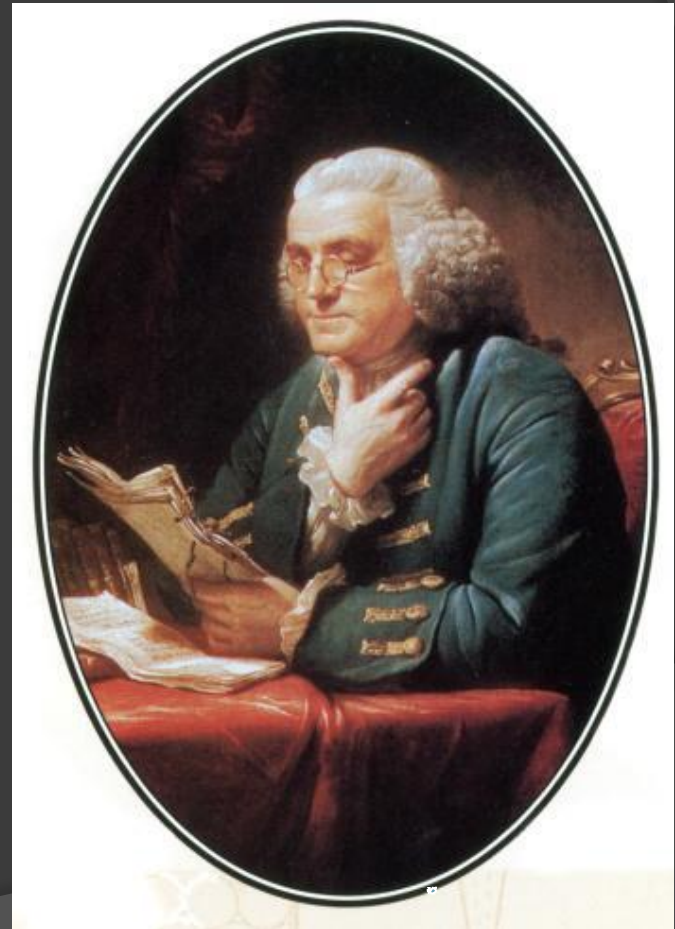
At age 17, **Benjamin Franklin** started the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, which became the most widely read newspaper in the colonies.



Franklin also wrote *Poor Richard's Almanac* (1733–1753) and a vivid autobiography.



Franklin eventually became one of the founders of the United States.



The Great Awakening

Time Period

- An emotion-packed Christian movement called the Great Awakening swept through the colonies in the 1730s and 1740s.

Causes

- By the 1700s, religious rules had become less strict in many of the colonies.
- The Great Awakening began as a reaction against what some Christians saw as a decline of religious zeal in the colonies.

Leaders

- **Jonathan Edwards** wrote a famous sermon called *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*.
- English minister George Whitefield made several tours of the colonies.

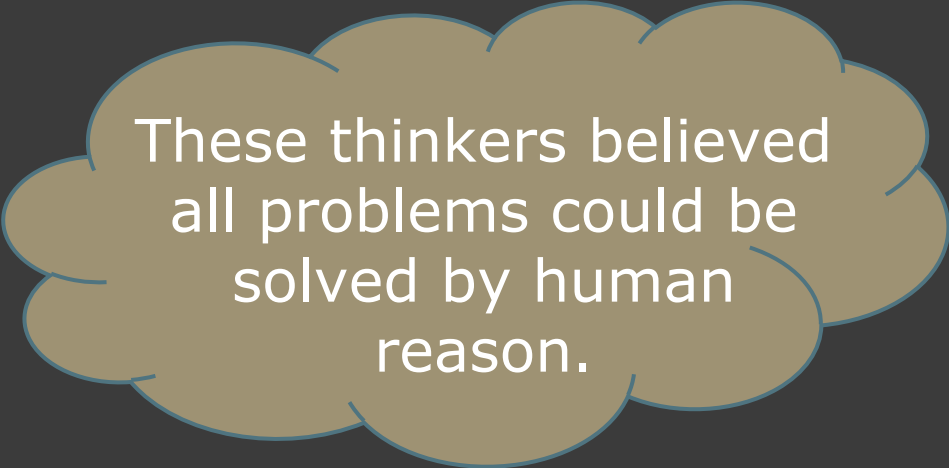
The Great Awakening led to:

more tolerance of religious differences in the colonies.

the rise of many new churches, such as the Methodists and the Baptists.

the split of many churches, such as the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, and Congregational churches.

Starting in the late 1600s, a group of European thinkers started an intellectual movement called the Enlightenment.

A thought bubble with a brownish-gold fill and a blue outline, containing the text: "These thinkers believed all problems could be solved by human reason."

These thinkers believed
all problems could be
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reason.

The Enlightenment reached its height in the mid-1700s in France.

In 1690, an Englishman named John Locke published the influential work *Two Treatises on Government*.



In this work, Locke argued that people have certain inalienable natural rights that include life, liberty, and property.

Locke challenged the idea of **divine right**, arguing instead that God grants natural rights to the people.

	Divine Right	Natural Rights
Where does the right to govern come from?	From God to the ruler	From the people
Where do people's rights come from?	From the ruler	From God to the people
What happens if a government violates people's rights?	People must obey the ruler.	People can change their government.

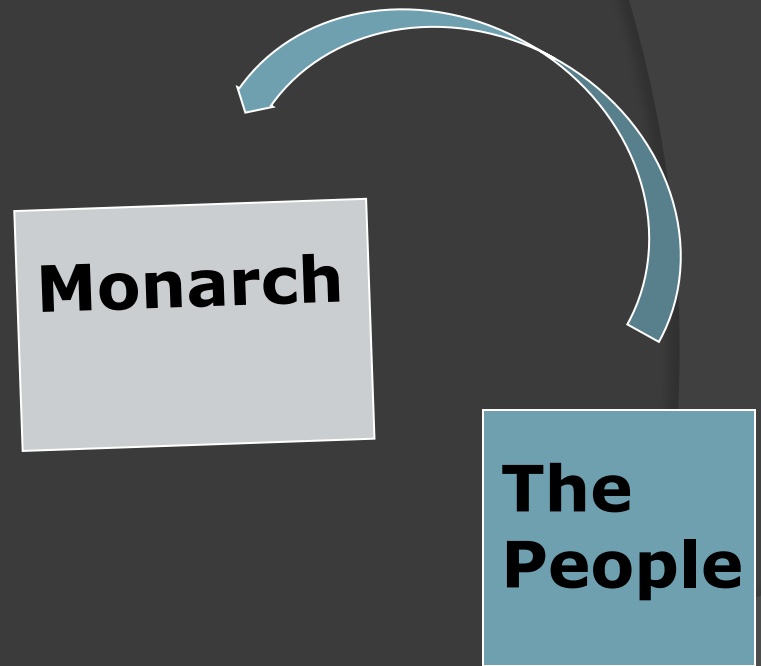
Locke wrote that people formed governments in order to protect their rights.



If a monarch violates those rights, the people have a right to overthrow the monarch.



This idea would later shape the founding of the United States.



A French thinker, the Baron de Montesquieu, also influenced American ideas.

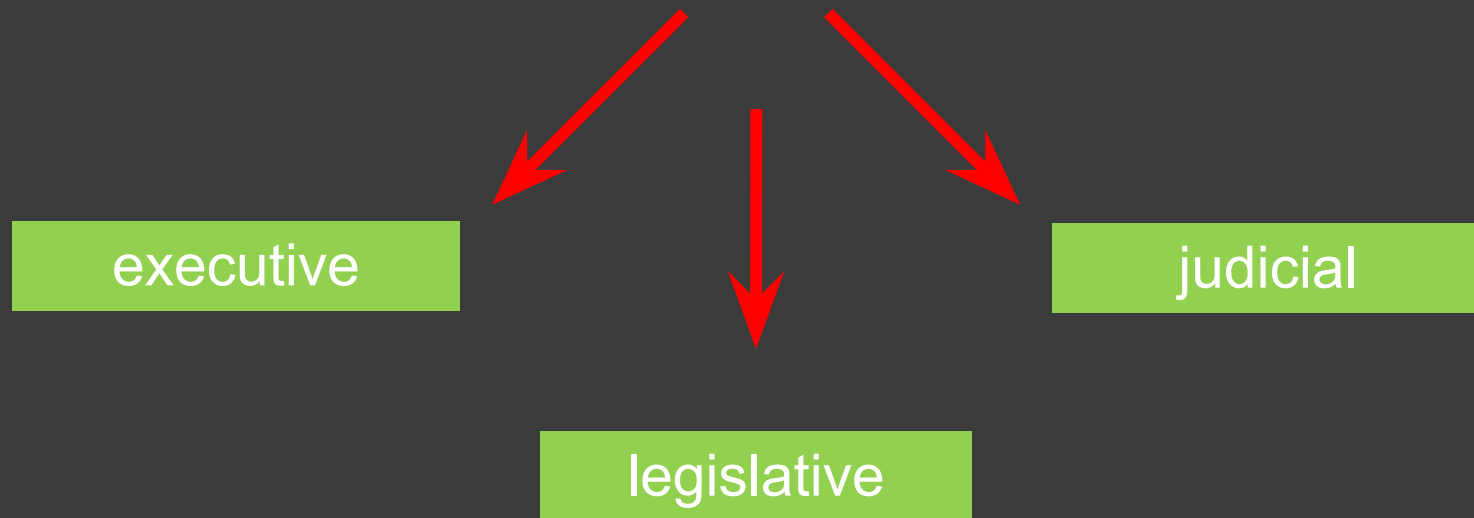


In his 1748 book, *The Spirit of the Laws*, he argued for **separation of powers** in government.



He said separation of powers keeps any one person or group from gaining too much power.

Montesquieu suggested that government should be divided into three branches:



This division of power became the basis of government in the United States.

Quiz

1. division of government into separate branches

2. rights that are said to belong to all humans from birth

3. an enslaved African poet in 1760s Boston

4. a well-loved colonial writer and journalist

a. Phillis Wheatley

b. Benjamin Franklin

c. natural rights

d. William Bradford

e. separation of powers

f. divine rights

5. Beginning in the 1730s, a wave of religious enthusiasm called the _____ swept through the colonies.

6. John Locke and the Baron de Montesquieu were two important thinkers in a movement called the _____ .

7. Some women opened _____ schools in their homes to teach young boys and girls to read and write.

8. Colonial grammar schools were something like today's _____ schools.

9. How were Puritan and other colonial schools different from the public schools of today?