The Enlightenment
**Enlightenment Ideals**

- Focus on mind and heart
- Enlightenment
  - power of human reason to shape the world
  - Appealed to?
- Pietism
  - emotional, evangelical religious movement
  - stressed a dependence on God
  - Appealed to?
- Both promoted power of individual thinking
The four Principles of the Enlightenment

- Law-like order of natural world
- Power of human reason
- Natural rights of individuals (including self-government)
- Progressive improvement of society
The Law-like Order

- Science was discovery & observation (not just “God’s will”)
- Sir Isaac Newton
  - Laws of motion
  - Path of planets
  - Gravity
The Law-like Order

- Sir Isaac Newton
  - God as “watchmaker”
Voltaire 1694-1778

Deism
- belief in creator/originator
- God: rationalist and non-personal
- God does not reveal prescription for living
- Reasoning leads to tolerance of beliefs

Nature of man is good

"Secular Humanism"
The Power of Reason

- John Locke
- *Tabula rasa* (blank slate)
  - Not “pre-programmed” by God
  - Environment, experience, reason impact behavior
  - Can change through education
The Natural rights of individuals

- John Locke (again)
- Government is
  - Social compact BY THE PEOPLE
  - Not subject to whims of royalty
  - Can be changed by people if deemed necessary
What impact do you see the Enlightenment having on life in the Colonies?
The Natural Man – American Enlightenment
Benjamin Franklin

- Self-educated
- Educated through Enlightenment readings
- Spurned Christianity
- Became a Deist

Known for
- Philosophy
- Poor Richard’s Almanac
- Inventions
  - Franklin stove
  - Bifocals
  - Lightning rod

Why would he be considered “enlightened”?
Philadelphia

- Set up public library (1731)
- First medical school in America
- Provided medical care for poor
- Provided care for elderly
- Belief that more philanthropy led to improved society
- Why would it become the center of American enlightenment?
Pietism Defined

- Churches: very emotional services
- Saw religion as “union with God”
- Appeal to the heart, not the mind
Theodore Frelinghuysen
 Ministered to Germans in Pennsylvania
  • "to awaken to personal repentance"
Leaders

- William and Gilbert Tennant
- Ministered to Scots-Irish in Pennsylvania and New Jersey
  - Tent revivals in rural areas
Leaders

- Jonathan Edwards
- Ministered to Calvinists in Connecticut
  - abstract ideas (like religion) both logical and emotional
  - Against economic or religious individualism
  - Wealthy Calvinists?
Leaders

- John Wesley
- Ministered in Britain and Georgia
- Founder of Methodists
  - “methods” of worship
  - Very emotional
  - Great speaker
How do you see Pietism changing religion in the colonies?
The Great Awakening
The Great Awakening

- Led by George Whitfield
- Follower of John Wesley
  - Enthusiastic preaching/sermons
  - Focus on emotion
  - Inspirational
  - Followers felt “New Light” of God’s grace
The Great Awakening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD LIGHTS</th>
<th>NEW LIGHTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>More conservative ministers</td>
<td>Greater separation of church and state</td>
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<td>Didn’t like emotional preachers</td>
<td>Split from established churches to form own</td>
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<td>Fear churches would be destroyed</td>
<td>Questioned authority of ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passed laws to protect churches</td>
<td>Training didn’t equal authority, conversion and experience did</td>
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<td>New Light ministers couldn’t preach without Old Light’s permission</td>
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The Great Awakening

- **GOALS**
  - More lay preachers (untrained)
  - Piety = democracy
  - Rural preachers question disparity in wealth
**The Great Awakening**

- **BELIEFS**
  - Salvation came from faith & prayer, not rituals/good works
  - Individual judged own behavior based on understanding of God and Bible
  - Break away from past; start fresh
  - Revivals = changed behaviors
  - Individual revival – reject Puritanism & Anglicanism --more reliance on "heart" than "head."
  - Ask for forgiveness, believe in God for salvation
Social Issues Created

- Broke down strong denominational ties
- Challenged religious authority
- In South
  - Baptists preached to slaves
  - Baptists and Presbyterians appealed to poor
  - Poor challenged wealthy Anglicans
- Social divisions: rich vs. poor
Results of the Great Awakening

- Growth of churches
- New denominations
- Growth of Education - schools of religion
- Religion more personalized
- Connection between religion and politics
- Connection between individual and God
- More support of individual within political system
- How is this similar or different from early colonial settlement?
Can Religion and Enlightenment ideas co-exist?