

Ideas Into Action

Trace how Enlightenment principles shaped revolutionary challenges.

10.2c "Individuals and groups drew upon principles of the Enlightenment to spread rebellions and call for revolutions in France and the Americas."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two principles about rights or political authority. Circle an action connected to each principle and label the pairs 1 and 2.

Rights, Representation, and Revolution

- ① France's financial crisis, unequal privileges, and food shortages helped bring revolution in 1789. Enlightenment thinkers argued that people possessed natural rights and government required consent. Third Estate representatives, speaking for those outside the clergy and nobility, formed the National Assembly and claimed constitution-making authority. Demands for representation challenged royal power, but revolutionaries disagreed about who should participate.
- ② In 1791, Olympe de Gouges demanded equal legal and political rights for women in her Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen. Robespierre invoked popular sovereignty: authority from the people. During the Terror, this revolutionary leader defended repression to protect the republic. Executions exposed conflicts between liberty and revolutionary power. Napoleon later became emperor in 1804, preserving some reforms while limiting political freedom.
- ③ In Saint-Domingue, enslaved people began a major uprising in 1791. Revolutionary claims about universal rights interacted with their own struggle against slavery. Toussaint Louverture became a leader and defended emancipation in his 1801 constitution. French forces captured him in 1802; he died in prison before Haiti achieved independence in 1804 under other leaders. In South America, Simón Bolívar invoked liberty and self-government against Spanish rule. These movements challenged colonial authority, but neither their goals nor their outcomes were identical. Independence did not automatically give every group equal political power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did natural rights and consent challenge royal authority in 1789?

2 How did Olympe de Gouges use revolutionary ideas to make a claim about women's rights?

3 What contradiction appeared between Robespierre's stated principle and the Terror?

4 What did Louverture and Bolívar each defend or challenge? Give one detail about each.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In four sentences, imagine a colonial community challenging an unfair ruler. Identify a principle, an authority challenged, an action, and a way to include an excluded group.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two principles about rights or political authority. Circle an action connected to each principle and label the pairs 1 and 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did natural rights and consent challenge royal authority in 1789?	Rights were held by people rather than granted at a king's pleasure, and legitimate authority required consent. The National Assembly demanded representation and constitution-making power.
2	How did Olympe de Gouges use revolutionary ideas to make a claim about women's rights?	She argued that women were citizens and therefore deserved equal legal and political rights.
3	What contradiction appeared between Robespierre's stated principle and the Terror?	He invoked popular sovereignty and defended the republic, yet supported repression and executions that conflicted with liberty.
4	What did Louverture and Bolívar each defend or challenge? Give one detail about each.	Louverture defended emancipation in Saint-Domingue, including in his 1801 constitution. Bolívar used liberty and self-government to challenge Spanish colonial rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the colony of Port Azure, residents claim that government is legitimate only with the consent of the governed. They challenge the governor appointed by a distant king, who collects taxes without local representation. They will elect an assembly and demand control over local laws. The assembly must include formerly excluded workers so that liberty is not reserved for landowners.

Accept accurate passage-based explanations. The imagined response should include a relevant principle, challenged authority, action and meaningful inclusion; do not treat every revolutionary movement as having identical goals.