Lesson 16-2 Homework Questions, part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What three factors created conflict between the American colonists and Great Britain? (Page 546)

2. Identify the ideas expressed by John Locke found in the Declaration of Independence? (Page 546)

3. To whom is credit given for writing the Declaration of Independence?

4. What rights do people have?

5. From whom do these rights come from?

6. When do people have the right to overturn their government?

7. Fill in the time line the important events in the development of the United States Constitution. (Page 547)

8. What democratic ideas were developed and guaranteed by 1791? Which document was the only one to secure all of the rights identified on the chart? (Page 547)

9. Why was a Bill of Rights added to the Constitution? (Page 547)

10. What significant event occurred in France? (Page 548)

11. What did the Declaration of Rights of Man and of the Citizen lay out? Why was it an important document? (Page 548)
Lesson 16-2 Democratic Ideas Develop

Use the following information from the textbook.

Democracy in America (pages 545–546)

*How did Enlightenment ideas help spark the American Revolution?*

Many Americans thinkers, including Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, studied Enlightenment ideas. Both Jefferson and Franklin believed reason was the key to understanding both the natural world and society. Franklin helped open the first lending library in America. Both men worked for freedom of religion. Jefferson founded the University of Virginia.

Colonial leaders used Enlightenment ideas to explain why they opposed British rule. Conflict arose between Britain and its American colonies in the 1770s over taxes imposed by the British. The colonists felt the British government ignored their rights. It did not allow them to be represented in Parliament. On July 4, 1776, the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson. It reflected his understanding of Enlightenment ideas. The declaration showed Locke’s belief in natural law and human rights. It did this when it stated that “all men are created equal.” It also expressed Locke’s belief that the people have the right to form a new government if the old one does not protect their rights. The declaration built on the democratic principles in the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta was the first document to limit the power of the ruler.

**Primary Source - from the Declaration of Independence**

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed (provided) by their Creator with certain unalienable (unable to take away) Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government."

Spread of Democratic Principles (pages 547–548)

*How did Enlightenment ideas continue to influence the United States and the world?*

The first government for the new United States was created under the Articles of Confederation. But it proved to be too weak. The federal government did not have enough power. In 1787, the nations' best political thinkers and leaders gathered in Philadelphia. They met to write a new plan for government to strengthen the federal government. Their work created the U.S. Constitution. This document reflected many Enlightenment principles, especially in the Bill of Rights added in 1791. The Bill of Rights protected freedom of speech, religion, and the press among other rights. The English Bill of Rights was a model for the American Bill of Rights.

The American Revolution inspired revolutions in other countries and the creation of other democratic governments. The French overthrew their king and created a revolutionary government in 1789. The new government adopted the Declaration of the Man and of the Citizen. This document gave French citizens the rights to “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.” But women’s rights were not included. The Enlightenment ideas that sparked the American and French Revolutions spread widely. They still influence people today who are trying to protect individual rights and freedoms.

**The French Revolution**

In 1789, the French rebelled against the oppressive rule of Louis XVI. They created a revolutionary government. It adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. This document laid out the rights to “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.” These rights, like those in the U.S. Constitution, would not be given to women without many years of struggle. Still, the democratic ideas that inspired the American and French revolutions spread widely in the decades that followed.