The Great Awakening & The Enlightenment:

* Movements that helped shape a revolution

Unit 3 – Causes of the American Revolution
8th Grade American Studies
2011 - 2012
The Great Awakening

- A religious movement that became widespread in the American colonies in the 1730’s and 1740’s
- Religious revivals throughout the colonies (mostly New England) made people begin to question older beliefs & ideas
The Great Awakening

- People began to “rebel” against church leaders
- New [Protestant] churches were formed
- If people could have “spiritual freedoms,” why not political freedoms…?
The Enlightenment

- a social and political movement that began during the late 17th – and 18th centuries in Europe, in which science, reason, and logic became the foundations for gaining knowledge.
The Enlightenment

- Principles such as logic and reason were applied to all aspects of society, including government.
- This led people to start thinking about the way countries and societies were governed at the time.
Key Enlightenment Ideas

● **Natural Rights** (also called *inalienable rights*) are rights that are not based upon the laws, customs, or beliefs of a particular society or government (i.e., *life, liberty, property, pursuit of happiness*)
Key Enlightenment Ideas

- The Social Contract – the idea that the people give up some personal rights to a government in order to receive or jointly preserve social order.
Key Enlightenment Ideas

[The Social Contract (part 2)]

- The power of the government comes from the idea that the people ALLOW the government to do its job ["consent of the governed"]
Key Enlightenment Ideas

[The Social Contract (part 3)]

- Because it is based on a CONTRACT, if the people do not feel that the government is acting fairly, then the PEOPLE have the right to change the government.
Key Enlightenment Figures

- John Locke – natural rights, social contract
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau – social contract
- Thomas Hobbes – extreme views of the social contract
- Montesquieu – separation of powers