Unit 1
The 18th Century in Europe
Social Studies – ESO-4
The 18th Century in Europe

- Absolute Monarchy
  - concept
  - why it didn’t succeed everywhere in Europe
- A century of balance
- Population in the 18th century
  - great increase
  - cities
  - division of the estates
    - first estate: the clergy
    - second estate: the nobles
    - third estate: the rest of the people
      - the peasants
      - the bourgeoisie
- Writers of the Enlightenment
  - Montesquieu
  - Voltaire
  - Rousseau
- Spain in the 18th century
  - Charles II
  - Philip V
The 18th Century in Europe

- **Absolute Monarchy**
  - Absolutism: system of government in most European countries.
  - Prussia, Austria, Russia, France and Spain.

- **These monarchs:**
  - developed national industry.
  - improved trade
  - encouraged science and education
  - centralized the administration
  - built a professional army
  - subjected the other powers (church and nobility).
The 18th Century in Europe

- Absolute Monarchy
  - didn’t succeed in: United Kingdom, the United Provinces or Poland
The 18th Century in Europe

- This was a century of balance.
- In 1700-1714 there was a War of Succession.
  - Peace of Utrecht (1713) and Rastadt (1714) after the war.
- Philip V was the king but Spain lost all the possessions in Europe.
- Other countries wanted to have more power (Russia, Prussia, Austria or England).
The 18th Century in Europe

• Population
  • From 115 to 190 million in 100 years.
    • Reduced mortality – better diet
    • Fewer plagues
    • Fewer wars
    • High birth rate
• Demographic transition
• Larger cities
The 18th Century in Europe

- The three estates:
  - First estate: the clergy
  - Second estate: the nobles
  - Third estate: all the others:
    - Bourgeoisie
    - Wager earners
    - Peasantry
The 18th Century in Europe

- The first estate: the **clergy**
  - Very influential for 1000 years
  - They:
    - controlled education
    - laid down moral values
    - wrote and kept books (before the printing press)
    - used the pulpit to communicate
  - Bishops were landowners and warriors.
The 18th Century in Europe

• The second estate: the nobles
  • They:
    • had privileges and power
    • they could join the army
    • had no direct taxes
    • had land (nobody else could in some countries)
  • Nobles had financial problems so:
    • they borrowed money
    • or married rich heiresses to help the family fortune.
The 18th Century in Europe

- The third estate: the rest of the people (97%)
  - **Peasants:**
    - Lived in the countryside
    - Worked on their landowner's land
    - In some countries their position was very miserable.
  - The **bourgeoisie:**
    - This urban social class is born now.
    - Some made a lot of money from trade
    - Some bought land and got noble status.
The 18th Century in Europe

- Writers of the Enlightenment
  - Montesquieu (1689-1755)
    - He wrote *Persian Letters* and *Spirit of the Laws*
    - He didn’t like absolutism.
    - He defended privilege and nobility.
    - He proposed the “separation of powers”
      - Executive
      - Legislative
      - Judicial
    - He warned against intolerance and tyranny.
Writers of the Enlightenment

Voltaire (1694-1778)
- He wrote *Letters Philosophiques*.
- He thought the Catholic Church was intolerant.
- He liked Parliamentary Monarchy.
- He emphasised reason and toleration.
The 18th Century in Europe

- Writers of the Enlightenment
  - Rousseau (1712-1778)
    - He proposed that direct participation of people would give the government the authority to run the state.
    - Democracy involved everyone.
Spain

- Charles II – War of succession after his death.
- Philip V – wanted a state similar to France:
  - Secretary of State
  - *Intendente* in local places
  - Reorganized the army
- Charles III – had Enlightenment ideas
  - Promoted economy: *Manufacturas reales*
  - Modern agriculture
  - Reduced the power of the Church
  - Supported science and culture
The 18th Century in Europe

- **Art**
  - **Rococo**: first half of 18th century
    - Exaggerated Baroque
    - Luxury
  - **Neoclassicism**: second half of 18th century
    - Reaction to Baroque
    - Back to simple classical Greco-Roman art
Unit 2
The American Revolution
Social Studies – ESO-4
The American Revolution

→ Background
  → First colonizers in 1607
  → 18th century – 13 colonies – 1,300,000 people
  → White majority
  → 350,000 black slaves – Southern plantations
The American Revolution

Causes

➔ People from the 13 colonies paid taxes
➔ No representatives in London Parliament

Result

➔ Boston Tea Party (1773)
➔ War against England
➔ Declaration of Independence (1776)
Other facts

- Spain and France helped the rebels
- In 1793 England recognized the new independent country: the United States of America
- George Washington was the first president
The American Revolution

New Political order

- Declaration of Rights:
  - Citizens – power
  - Same rights
  - Freedom of opinion and property

- Rights only for white men
The American Revolution

Constitution

- Separation of the three powers:
  - Congress – legislative
  - Government – executive
  - Judicial – independent observers

- System still in use today
The American Revolution

Formation of the United States of America

➔ First half of 19th century:
  ➔ Lousiana was bought from France
  ➔ Florida was bought from Spain
  ➔ Oregon was transferred by England
  ➔ Texas joined the union
  ➔ New Mexico and California were won in a war against Mexico

➔ Great expansion to the West
The American Revolution

Formation of the United States of America

- Secession war
  - Southern states defended slavery (they needed slaves for their plantations)
  - Northern states were abolitionist
- Lincoln was an abolitionist president – 1860
- Southern states formed a Confederation and war broke out
The American Revolution

Formation of the United States of America

- Results of the war
  - 4 years of war – 500,000 people died
  - The North won
  - Slavery was abolished