**STANDARD WHII.5c**

**The student will apply social science skills to understand the political, cultural, geographic, and economic conditions in Europe and Russia from about 1500 A.D. (C.E.) to about 1800 A.D. (C.E.) by**

**c) describing the development of social and cultural patterns in France, with emphasis on the Age of Absolutism, Louis XIV, and the Enlightenment period;**

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| **Essential Understandings** | **Essential Knowledge** |
| The Age of Absolutism takes its name from a series of European monarchs who increased the power of their central governments.  Enlightenment thinkers believed that human progress was possible through the application of scientific knowledge and reason to issues of law and government.  Enlightenment ideas influenced the leaders of the American Revolution and the writing of the Declaration of Independence. | **Characteristics of absolute monarchies**   * Centralization of power * Concept of rule by divine right   **Absolute monarchs**   * Louis XIV of France: Palace of Versailles as a symbol of royal power   **The Enlightenment**   * Emphasized reason, analysis, and individualism * Stimulated religious pluralism * Fueled democratic revolutions around the world   **Enlightenment thinkers and their ideas**   * Thomas Hobbes’ *Leviathan*: Humans exist in a primitive “state of nature” and consent to government for self-protection. * John Locke’s *Two Treatises of Government*: People are sovereign and consent to government for protection of natural rights to life, liberty, and property. * Montesquieu: The best form of government depends on a country’s size, climate, and other factors; he popularized the concept of separation of powers. * Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *The Social Contract*: Government is a contract between rulers and the people. * Voltaire: Hostile to religious fanaticism and to religious beliefs in general.   **Influence of the Enlightenment**   * Political philosophies of the Enlightenment fueled revolution in the Americas and France. * Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence incorporated Enlightenment ideas. * The Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights incorporated Enlightenment ideas. |

**STANDARD VUS.4b**

**The student will apply social science skills to understand the issues and events leading to and during the Revolutionary Period by**

**b) evaluating how political ideas of the Enlightenment helped shape American politics;**

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| **Essential Understandings** | **Essential Knowledge** |
| The foundations of American government lie in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English Common Law, the parliamentary systems, and the European Enlightenment movement.  The Founding Fathers blended the colonial governmental system with Enlightenment political philosophies to shape the new nation. | **Key political ideas of the Enlightenment**   * Natural rights * Consent of the governed * Social Contract * Ordered liberty * Separation of church and state * Separation of powers |

**STANDARD VUS.4e**

**The student will apply social science skills to understand the issues and events leading to and during the Revolutionary Period by**

**e) evaluating how key principles in the Declaration of Independence grew in importance to become unifying ideas of American political philosophy.**

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| **Essential Understandings** | **Essential Knowledge** |
| The American Revolution was inspired by ideas concerning natural rights and political authority, and its successful completion affected people and governments throughout the world for many generations.  The revolutionary generation formulated the political philosophy and laid the institutional foundations for the system of government under which Americans live.  New political ideas about the relationship between people and their government helped to justify the Declaration of Independence. | **The Declaration of Independence**   * The Declaration of Independence was inspired by ideas concerning natural rights and political authority that laid the institutional foundations for the system of government that ultimately unified the American people. * The eventual draft of the Declaration of Independence, authored by Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, reflected the ideas of John Locke and Thomas Paine. * Locke’s writings on “natural rights,” “social contract,” “ordered liberty,” and “consent of the governed” were incorporated when Jefferson wrote: * “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable 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 abolish it, and to institute new Government…” * Paine’s *Common Sense* challenged the rule of the American colonies by the King of England. It was read by many American colonists and contributed to the growing sentiment for independence from Great Britain. Jefferson incorporated into the Declaration of Independence many of the grievances against the King of England that Paine had outlined in *Common Sense*. |

**STANDARD GOVT.2c**

**The student will apply social science skills to understand the political philosophies that shaped the development of Virginia and United States constitutional government by**

c) evaluating the writings of Hobbes, Locke, and Montesquieu;

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| **Essential Understandings** | **Essential Knowledge** |
| Principles of government and law developed by leading European political thinkers Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Montesquieu may be found in the Constitution of Virginia, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. | **Fundamental political principles**   * Limited government: John Locke (Constitution of Virginia, Constitution of the United States, Declaration of Independence) * Government’s authority coming only from the consent of the governed: Thomas Hobbes, John Locke (Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States) * Separation of powers: Montesquieu (Constitution of the United States, Constitution of Virginia) |