Section 3

The Enlightenment Spreads

Enlightenment ideas spread through the Western world and profoundly influence the arts and government.

A World of Ideas

Intellectual Life in Paris

- Paris becomes center of the Enlightenment during 1700s
- City is home to salons—gatherings where thinkers discuss ideas

Diderot's Encyclopedia

- Philosophe Denis Diderot begins publishing Encyclopedia in 1751
 - set of books to which Enlightenment thinkers contribute essays
- Encyclopedia articles anger French government, Catholic Church
- Encyclopedia helps spread Enlightenment ideas across Europe

New Artistic Styles

Neoclassical Style Emerges

- Pre-Enlightenment art style is baroque—grand, ornate design [Visual 1]
- Enlightenment style is neoclassical, based on Greek/Roman themes [Visual 2]

Changes in Music and Literature

- Classical music emerges; lighter, more elegant than earlier style
 - led by composers such as Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
- Novel emerges; works of fiction with detailed plots and characters
- Samuel Richardson's Pamela considered first true English novel



Gallery of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles (1631–1634), France.



Interior of Pantheon in Rome. Painting (19th century), Jacques Germaine Soufflot.





Enlightenment and Monarchy

Enlightened Despots

- Spirit of the Enlightenment prompts rise of enlightened despots:
 - monarchs who embrace Enlightenment values to strengthen their rule

Frederick the Great

- Frederick II, king of Prussia, reforms education and justice system
- Grants religious freedom, abolishes torture, fails to end serfdom

Joseph II

- Joseph II of Austria allows freedoms of worship and the press
- Abolishes serfdom, but the practice is reinstated after his death

Enlightenment and Monarchy

Catherine the Great [Visual]

- Catherine the Great—enlightened ruler of Russia, 1762–1796
- Seeks to abolish capital punishment and torture, but effort fails
- Responds to peasant revolt by giving nobles more power over serfs

Catherine Expands Russia

- In foreign affairs, Catherine successfully expands Russian empire
- Gains port access for Russia by seizing northern coast of Black Sea
- Seizes large parts of Poland, increasing empire's size



Portrait of Catherine II ('The Great'), empress of Russia. Painting (18th century).

