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The dates for the period of history are approximate and reflect the research of the author and editors, who acknowledge that not all historians will agree with them. Ideas to encourage students to put the Enlightenment period in historical context follow this chronology.

The Enlightenment (1715-1789) — Time Line

- 1687** Newton's *Principia* is published
- 1694-1778** Voltaire lives
- 1699-1779** J.B.S. Chardin lives
- 1715** Louis XIV dies; Enlightenment era begins
- 1715-1774** Louis XV reigns as King of France
- 1726** Jonathon Swift publishes *Gulliver's Travels*
- 1740-1786** Frederick the Great reigns as King of Prussia
- 1741-1828** J.A. Houdon lives
- 1751-1768** Diderot's *Encyclopedia* is published
- 1756-1763** Seven Years' War is fought
- 1756** W.A. Mozart is born

1759	Voltaire publishes <i>Candide</i>
1762	Rousseau publishes <i>Social Contract</i>
1769	Watt invents steam engine
1774–1792	Louis XVI reigns as King of France
1776	American <i>Declaration of Independence</i> is published
1776–1783	War of American Independence is fought
1789	French Revolution begins
1804	Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of France

Time Line Classroom Activities

- 1. Adding to the chronology.** Reproduce a copy of this chronology for your students. Have them add another significant event between several (or selected) entries, and ask them to be prepared to explain why the event was important to understanding the period. As a variation, have students add events from other parts of the world and explain how the event is similar to or different from what was happening during the Enlightenment.
- 2. Making a classroom time line.** Attach a roll of shelf paper to a bulletin board or wall. Have students draw a time line on the paper and transfer the information from the chronology to the time line. They can then illustrate each event with a drawing.
- 3. Linking past to present.** Include the current year (or their birth year) in the chronology or time line, and have students count and record the number of intervening years.
- 4. Researching and presenting reports.** Assign news bulletin-type mini-reports on each topic in the chronology and have students deliver the reports as if they were doing a radio broadcast.