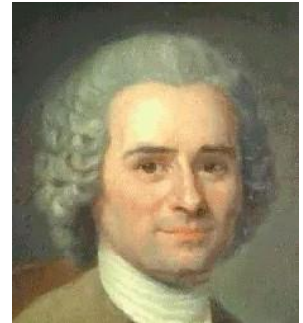## Introduction to "the Enlightenment"

The 18th Century was the age of "The Enlightenment", when many philosophers began to argue that society should be run by logic and reason rather than tradition and superstition. The following philosophers were particularly dangerous because they did not simply criticise the King and Queen, but attacked the fundamental idea of monarchy altogether.
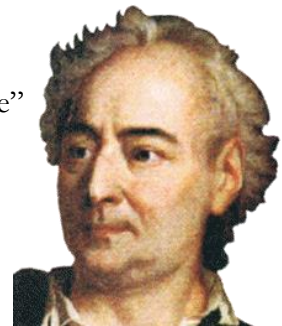
Rousseau:

I.   "Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains"
II. "In the natural order, men are all equal"
III. "You forget that the fruits belong to all and that the land belongs to no one"
IV. "To renounce liberty is to renounce being a man, to surrender the rights of humanity and even its duties".

Diderot:

V.   "There is no true sovereign, there can be no true lawmaker, but the people"
VI. "Man will only be free when the last king is strangled with the guts of the last priest"
VII. "A thing is not proved just because no one has ever questioned it. So scepticism is the first step toward truth"

Tom Paine:

VIII. "A hereditary ruler is as absurd an idea as a hereditary mathematician"
IX.   "The state of a king shuts him off from the world, yet the business of a king requires him to know it thoroughly"
X.   "Aristocrats degenerate the human species by intermarrying constantly with each other"

Task:
1. Highlight/underline your favourite quote from each philosopher.
2. Which is your favourite quote overall? Why?