Name: _____ Date: _____

LOCKE & JEFFERSON

Vocabulary: justified, overthrow, liberty, property, pursuit

A philosopher by the name of John Locke **JUSTIFIED** the Glorious Revolution. He believed that the English people had the right to **OVERTHROW** James II. Let him tell you about his beliefs.

Good afternoon. My name is John Locke. In 1689 I wrote a book with a strange title called **Two Treatises of Government**. A treatise is like a very long essay. I believe that man has certain natural rights. A natural right is a right given by God. Since God gives natural rights, nobody, not even a king or a government, can take them away.

You are probably asking, "What natural rights has God given me?" That's easy. Everybody has the right to **"LIFE, LIBERTY and PROPERTY.'** Nobody can take those rights from you! If somebody does try to take away your natural rights, your government must protect them. If your government does not protect your natural rights, you have the right to overthrow your government and put in a government that does protect your rights.

That is what we did in 1688 in the Glorious Revolution. The Stuart Kings were not protecting our natural rights. So we overthrew the government and put in a new government that promised to protect our rights. It's that simple!

87 years later, an American by the name of Thomas Jefferson, wrote the Declaration of Independence. He wrote it to justify the American Revolution against my country, England. Jefferson wrote that when a government does not protect your natural rights (he called them unalienable rights, but it means the same thing), such as "life, liberty and the **PURSUIT** of happiness," people have the right to try to change their government. If that fails, they can overthrow the government. The Americans then got rid of us English and started the United States of America. I wonder where Jefferson got his ideas from?

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did John Locke write Two Treatises of Government?

2. What does Locke mean by "natural rights?" Give two examples

3. Where do you think Thomas Jefferson got his ideas from for the **Declaration of Independence?** Explain your answer.