French Enlightenment writer who did not like France at the time and advocated that people should be allowed to believe in whatever they wanted.

Voltaire was an important figure during the Enlightenment. This was because he spoke out against religious ties and wanted people to be able to believe in whatever they wanted. He also believed that freedom of speech was the best way to fight a bad government and the Catholic church.

Nicolaus Copernicus
- 1473-1543
- Polish mathematician and astronomer during the Renaissance.
- He used science to discover that the sun was the center of the universe rather than the earth. This theory was proved to be true and he is the man who gets credit for discovering it. Even today, the theory of the heliocentric solar system is proven true.

Akbar
- 1556-1605
- Mughal Emperor for the Mughal dynasty in India. He did not force religion on anyone in India and do not want to force the conversion of Hindu on his people.
- Akbar attempted to reconcile Islam, Hinduism and Zoroastrianism. This also led to creating less restriction on women and removed the jizya. He used military conquest to expand his empire from Afghanistan to Benga, to Sindh, to the Godavari River.

Wang Yang Ming
- 1472-1529
- Ming was a Confucian philosopher and general during the Ming dynasty. Ming believed anyone could achieve virtues through their own mental thought, without needing an education.
- Many people did not like the way he thought, and thought it was thenings of individualism. Others thought he was trying to take over and have more power than what he did. Later, he was known as one of the greatest Confucian thinkers in time.

1. Europe was not the center of strength in world and was not the most active either. During the expansion of many societies, the European society decided to stretch farther. Europeans used maritime travel to expand into other continents, opposed to places such as China, where they used military conquest for expansion. China stayed close to their homeland while expanding opposed to the Europeans who decided to travel across the ocean for more land. The Europeans were creating something completely new to the world as opposed to their other societies who were expanding with similar aspects. In the Americas, there was the creation of slave trade, and encomienda system, mercantilism, etc. Opposed to other societies who were imperial expanders, spreading their cultures without creating new ones. The Russians were not nearly as defensive as