Thomas Hobbes

- Lived in England and studied at Oxford University.
- Wrote a book called The Leviathan which is a sea monster. This is a symbol of the power of a great ruler/king that keeps the people in order.
- He believed people were naturally selfish and that democracy could not work. People would always put their interests ahead of the nation’s.
- He believed freedom would lead to greed and war, so a king needed to rule.
John Locke

- Lived in England, but fled to Holland/The Netherlands. Also studies at Oxford.
- Wrote “Two Treatises of Government” about Social Contract.
- He believed the king’s power should be limited and that people have the natural ability to govern themselves.
- He believed the government should protect our natural rights (life, liberty, and property)
- He was anti-slavery and in favor of giving women a voice.
Jean Jacques Rousseau

- Lived in Geneva, Switzerland and moved to Paris, France.
- He believed the best form of government was a direct democracy where people voted on the laws.
- He believed other forms of government like monarchies could lead to corruption (people being greedy and working for themselves)
- He believed the government should work for the people.
Baron de Montesquieu

- Lived in France. (named Charles-Louis de Secondat)
- His belief of separating the government into different branches was to stop any leader from total power. (known as “checks and balances”)
- These branches are Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.
- He also was against religion being violent and wanted religious freedom/tolerance.