Rationalism

- The Age of Reason, or Enlightenment, began in Europe with the philosophers and scientists of the 17th and 18th centuries who called themselves rationalists.

- **Rationalism**-the belief that human beings can arrive at truth by using reason, rather than by relying on the authority of the past, on religious faith, or on intuition.

- Rationalists saw God as the creator of the universe to run on its own. They compared God to a clock maker.

- Rationalists believed that God's special gift to humanity is reason-the ability to think in an ordered, logical manner.

- They believed that reason enabled them to discover scientific and spiritual truths

- Rationalists felt it unlikely that God would choose to reveal himself at only particular times to particular people.

- Most of the literature written in the colonies was rooted in reality. Much of the literature was in pamphlets to serve practical or political purposes.