Objective: What was the impact of the Enlightenment (British/American) and The Great Awakening on the colonies? Why was George Whitfield so popular?

Warm-Up: Read over the handout on the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening. Highlight important information and create three questions to ask.
Enlightenment and the Great Awakening
The Enlightenment

Overall

- Using reason and logic to explain the world and advance society
- Started with European elite (upper class and nobility) in the mid-17th Century
- Isaac Newton, John Locke, Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu
- Encyclopédie (1751) and the “Republic of Letters”
The American Enlightenment

- The European Enlightenment expanded into the colonies
- Colonial wealth, colleges, books, immigration
- Compulsory education in New England
- Harvard, William & Mary, Yale
- Practicality
- Mostly confined to the elites!
Literacy

• The American Colonies were the most literate society in the world (90% of males in NE, 40% of females)

• Literacy throughout varied from 35–50%. England averaged about 30%.

• Despite widespread literacy books were fairly rare; people were moved by persons who had the power of the spoken word.
American Enlightened Thinkers and Concepts

- Benjamin Franklin
  - *Poor Richard’s Almanack*
  - Lending Libraries
  - Practical inventions
- Thomas Jefferson
  - Classicist and Republicanism
- Thomas Paine
  - Author & Inventor
  - *Common Sense*
  - *Age of Reason*
- Deism
- Liberalism & Republicanism

“When any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”

-Benjamin Franklin
The Great Awakening

- An 18th Century Revivalist Evangelical Protestant Movement in the colonies (1720-1760)
- Focused on emotional conversion
- First shared event in the American colonies (nationalism?)
- Developed in part from the wide mix of Protestant religions in the colonies
- Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield
“O sinner! Consider the fearful danger you are in: it is a great furnace of wrath, a wide and bottomless pit, full of the fire of wrath, that you are held over in the hand of that God, whose wrath is provoked and incensed as much against you, as against many of the damned in hell. You hang by a slender thread, with the flames of divine wrath flashing about it, and ready every moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you have . . . nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the flames of wrath, nothing of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to spare you one moment.”

“. . . All you that never passed under a great change of heart, by the mighty power of the Spirit of God upon your souls; all you that were never born again . . . are in the hands of an angry God . . .”
“I happened soon after to attend one of his sermons, in the course of which I perceived he intended to finish with a collection, and I silently resolved he should get nothing from me. I had in my pocket a handful of copper money, three or four silver dollars and five ... gold [coins]. As he proceeded I began to soften, and concluded to give the coppers. Another stroke of his oratory made me ashamed of that, and determined me to give the silver; and he finished so admirably, that I empty'd my pocket wholly into the collector's dish, gold and all.”

Benjamin Franklin, 1742
## New Lights vs. Old Lights

### New Lights
- Part of the new “revivals”
- Felt that religious message had run astray.
- Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians

### Old Lights
- Traditional “old” beliefs within the colonies.
- Congregationalists
- Quakers
- Anglicans
Impact of the Great Awakening

- Effected all colonists in all colonies (1st shared experience)
- Friction between the “New Lights” and “Old Lights”
- New ministers, new colleges (Princeton, Brown, Rutgers, Columbia, etc.)
- Characteristic of an American culture
- Inherently democratic movement
- At odds with the Enlightenment?
Talk amongst yourselves...
Here’s your topic:

The Great Awakening was neither “great” nor an “awakening.”

Discuss.

Coffee Talk from SNL
But really...

• Why was George Whitfield so popular?

• Read the documents provided and complete the graphic organizer.

• Be prepared to share with a partner and the class.
18th Century Colonial Demographics

- Colonial Population
  - 1720 – 472,000
  - 1760 – 1.6 million
- Immigration
  - Germans
  - Scots-Irish
- Africans
  - Georgia
  - Imported 200,000 from 1720 – 1780
  - 1760 – 40% of Southern colonies
  - African culture
- Native Americans
  - “Settlement Indians”
  - Relocation west