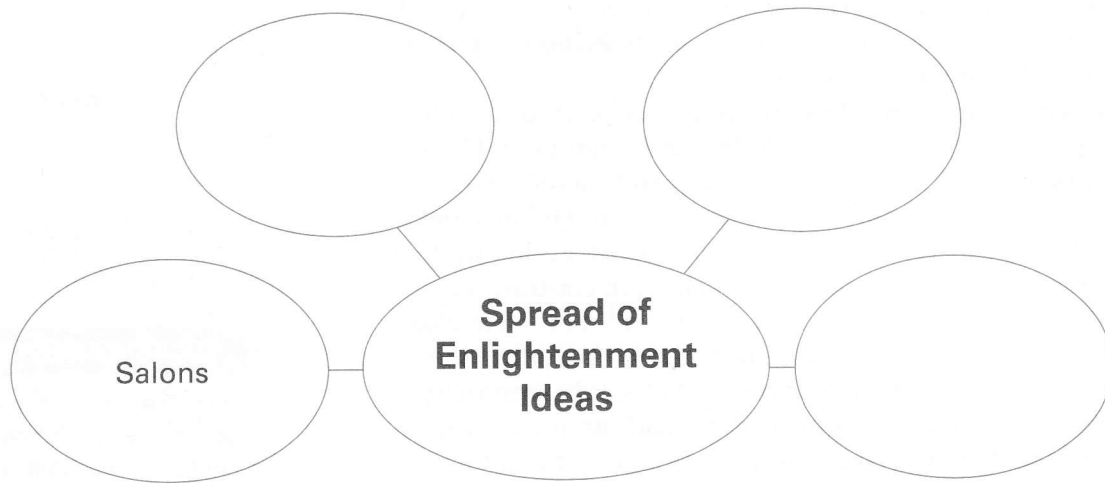


CHAPTER  
**17**  
SECTION 2

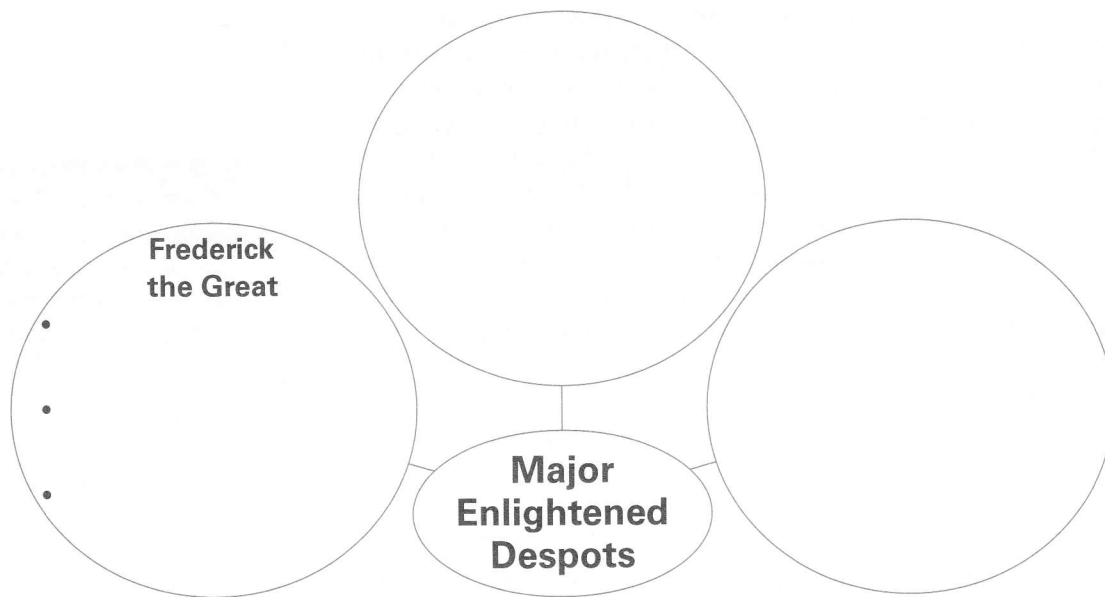
**Note Taking Study Guide**  
**ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS SPREAD**

**Focus Question:** As Enlightenment ideas spread across Europe, what cultural and political changes took place?

A. As you read "New Ideas Challenge Society" and "Arts and Literature Reflect New Ideas," complete the following concept web to categorize how Enlightenment ideas spread.



B. As you read "Enlightened Despots Embrace New Ideas" and "Lives of the Majority Change Slowly," complete the following concept web to summarize information about enlightened despots and their contributions.



**Section Summary**  
**ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS SPREAD**

Enlightenment ideas flowed from France, across Europe and beyond. Before the Enlightenment, most Europeans had accepted a society based on divine-right rule, a strict class system, and a belief in a heavenly reward for earthly suffering. The ideas of the Enlightenment, found in books such as Diderot's *Encyclopédie*, challenged those traditional beliefs and customs. In response, most government and church authorities waged a war of **censorship**. They banned and burned books, and imprisoned writers. Censorship, however, did not stop the spread of ideas. *Philosophes* and others disguised their ideas in works of fiction. Ideas continued to spread in **salons**, where people gathered to discuss new concepts in literature, the arts, science, and philosophy.

In the 1600s and 1700s, the arts evolved to meet changing tastes and reflect new Enlightenment ideals. In visual art and in music there was a transition from the heavier splendor of the **baroque** style to the lighter, more charming style of **rococo**. Ballets and operas set to music—were performed at royal courts. Opera houses sprang up in Europe. Composers later created elegant works in a style known as classical. A growing audience of middle-class readers also led to the rise of a new type of literature—a prose form called the novel.

Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* was written at this time.

The courts of Europe were also affected by the Enlightenment as *philosophes* tried to persuade European rulers to make reforms. A few European monarchs did accept Enlightenment ideas, but retained their absolute control. These **enlightened despots** used their power to bring about some political and social changes. In Prussia, **Frederick the Great** kept tight control over his subjects yet allowed a free press and religious tolerance. **Catherine the Great** of Russia abolished torture and criticized the institution of serfdom. In Austria, **Joseph II** traveled in disguise among his subjects to learn of their problems. Despite the spread of Enlightenment ideas, however, the lives of most regular Europeans changed slowly.

**Review Questions**

1. How did most government and church authorities try to stop the spread of Enlightenment ideas?

2. What effect did Enlightenment ideas have on art, music, and literature?

**READING CHECK**

What traditional beliefs and customs did the ideas of the Enlightenment challenge?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *evolved* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? Circle the context clues in the paragraph that could help you learn what *evolved* means.

**READING SKILL**

**Summarize** How did enlightened despots contribute to the Enlightenment?

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