

## Big Idea Card

### Big Ideas of Lesson 4, Unit 1

- When people live in groups, they find it necessary to establish rules to maintain order and ensure survival.
- Our ideas about government are based on the belief that every human being is endowed with natural rights - life, liberty, and property.
- Political philosophers during the Enlightenment period (late 1500s – late 1700s) considered the purposes of government by first considering what would happen in a state of nature – a situation without government, laws, or any authority. In a “state of nature”, people would be in a constant state of conflict over the resources they need to survive.
- According to Enlightenment philosophers, in order to protect their natural rights, people form governments. In other words, people are willing to give up their right to do whatever they want in exchange for their survival and security.
- In forming governments, people consent or agree to give up their right to do whatever they want in exchange for the protection of their natural rights to life, liberty, and property. This agreement is called a social contract or social compact.