

# The Ideas of John Locke

Use the cartoons below and your knowledge of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke to answer the questions on the back of this paper.

**CHESTER THE CRAB** 1607 JAMESTOWN, SETTLED PURITANS IN MASSACHUSETTS 1630 CAROLINAS, CHARTERED 1686

## WHAT ARE LOCKE'S RIGHTS IN NATURE?

CHESTER IS DREAMING HE IS IN A JUNGLE WITH AN ORPHANED ENGLISHMAN IN THE 1600s...

**Lockezan!**

JOHN LOCKE, HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING WITH THE APES?

I HAVE GROWN UP STRONG. I HAVE ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT HOW I KNOW THE THINGS I KNOW. HOBBS'S THE TIGER IS WRONG. NATURE IS NOT A NASTY PLACE. IT IS A PLACE TO BE FREE!

HERE I HAVE FREEDOM TO USE MY NATURAL RIGHTS — RIGHTS GOD GAVE ME THE MOMENT I WAS BORN.

NO KING, NO JUDGE, NO CHURCH, AND NO TIGER CAN TAKE MY RIGHT TO LIFE...

**LOOK OUT! IT'S HOBBS!**

...OR MY RIGHT TO LIBERTY...

...OR MY RIGHT TO PROPERTY!

"PROPERTY?" ALL YOU OWN IS A LONCLOTH!

PROPERTY IS THE BASIS OF ALL RIGHTS. PROPERTY CAN BE A HOUSE, PANTS — OR MY OWN BODY AND MIND. WITHOUT CONTROL OVER MY BODY AND MIND, I HAVE NOTHING. I GET TO DECIDE HOW I WILL LIVE AND WORK. THAT'S FREEDOM!

**Next: GOVERN! Men T**

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## WHY DO GOVERNMENTS GET STARTED?

CHESTER IS HANGING WITH JOHN LOCKE, AN ENGLISHMAN WHO LOVES THE FREEDOM HE HAS IN THE STATE OF NATURE.

WHAT IS IT NOW, KERGAK?

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE EXERCISING YOUR RIGHTS, YOU NEED TO GET TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION.

YOU NEED A GOVERNMENT!

YES! A BIG CLUB!!

NO — A DIFFERENT KIND OF CLUB. A GOVERNMENT IS CREATED TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE. IT HAS ONLY THE SPECIFIC AND LIMITED POWERS THAT PEOPLE AGREE TO GIVE IT.

IN GOVERNMENT LAWS MAY BE MADE AND RULES SET TO GUARD THE PROPERTY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY. SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GUARD FROM OUTSIDE DANGERS.

I WILL BE THE KING GUARD!

... AND SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO GUARD AGAINST OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

**Next: NO MORE KINGS**

**CHESTER THE 1607 CRAB 1630 PURITANS IN MASSACHUSETTS 1685 CAROLINAS CHARTER**

# IS ANYONE ABOVE LOCKE'S LAWS?

CHESTER IS DREAMING ABOUT  
**Lockezan**  
 —WHO HAS JUST HELPED FORM A GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WILDS OF NATURE IN THE LATE 1600s.

YES, THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS.

**JOHN LOCKE, NOW YOU HAVE A WAY TO PROTECT YOUR LIFE, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY!**

**TURBAT, BEGIN TO DIG A DEEP PIT, THAT WILL TRAP THE TIGER HOBBER.**

**WHY SHOULD I DIG IT, KERCHAK! WHY DON'T YOU DIG IT!**

**BECAUSE I AM KERCHAK I WILL BE THE KING OF THIS NEW GOVERNMENT!!**

**THE KING OF THE JUNGLE!**

**LOCKEZAN: HELP!**

**KERCHAK IS DENYING ME MY RIGHT TO LIBERTY! JUST BECAUSE WE STARTED A GOVERNMENT, DOES THAT MEAN HE CAN CONTROL ME?!**

**EVERY!**

**CITIZENS IN A GOVERNMENT HAVE A RIGHT — AND A DUTY — TO CHANGE THEIR GOVERNMENT IF IT HURTS THEIR BASIC RIGHTS!**

**WE ALL FOLLOW THE SAME LAWS! WHERE THE LAW ENDS, TYRANNY BEGINS! HE WHO TRIES TO ENSLAVE ME PUTS HIMSELF IN A STATE OF WAR WITH ME!!**

Next: Truths

1. What country was John Locke from?
2. How does Locke disagree with Hobbes about the natural state of people and the universe?
3. According to Locke, what are our natural rights?
4. What is the "basis for all right?" explain.
5. What must people (citizens) do if they are not able to exercise their rights?
6. According to Locke, what is the purpose of government?
7. If a government does not protect the natural rights of citizens or abuses power, what must the citizens do?

## Excerpts from Hobbes' *Leviathan*

*"...in the first place, I put for a general inclination (trend) of all mankind, a perpetual (constant) and restless desire of power after power, that ceaseth only in death.*

**1. What does Hobbes' believe is the trend of all men?**

**2. What might this trend lead to?**

*Hereby it is manifest (obvious) that during the time men live without a common power to keep them all in awe (fear), they are in that condition which is called war; and such a war as is of every man against every man.*

**3. What does Hobbes' believe causes war between men?**

## Excerpts from John Locke's *Two Treatises on Government*

The state of nature is also a state of equality. No one has more power or authority than another. Since all human beings have the same advantages and the use of the same skills, they should be equal to each other... Reason is the law. It teaches that all men are equal and independent, and that no one ought to harm another in his life, liberty, or possessions.

**4. What does Locke believe is the "state of nature"?**

Since men hope to preserve their property by establishing a government, they will not want that government to destroy this objective. When legislators (law makers) try to gain or give someone else absolute power over lives, liberties, and property of the people, they abuse the power which the people had put into their hands. It is then the privilege of the people to establish a new legislature to provide for their safety and security.

**5. According to Locke, what do the people have the right to do if the government abuses its power?**

**Thomas Hobbes**



**John Locke**

