

WHY GOVERNMENT? iCivics Lesson about John Locke

<p>There once was a man – a philosopher – named John Locke (1632-1704 CE). He thought a lot about life and particularly about <b>government</b>.</p>	<p>He thought a lot about living in a <b>state of nature</b>. That means living without any laws or government.</p>	<p>In a state of nature, Mr. Locke thought that people would pursue the same three rights: life, liberty, and property. He called these <b>natural rights</b>.</p>
<p><b>Life</b> means that people want to and will fight to survive.</p>	<p><b>Government</b> is a body formed by a social contract to protect people and their natural rights. Governments don't always do their job well, but that's why we have governments.</p>	<p>In a contract, everyone gives up something to reach a desired goal. In a <b>social contract</b>, everyone agrees to give up a little freedom to protect everyone's rights!</p>
<p>By <b>property</b>, Mr. Locke meant that people want to own things that will help them survive like land, food, and tools. People want to earn things.</p>	<p><b>Liberty</b> means that people want to be as free as possible to make their own decisions about how to live.</p>	<p>In order to be sure that all people could enjoy these three natural rights, people formed agreements of <b>social contracts</b>.</p>

<p>There once was a man – a philosopher – named John Locke (1632-1704 CE). He thought a lot about life and particularly about <b>government</b>.</p>	<p>He thought a lot about living in a <b>state of nature</b>. That means living without any laws or government.</p>	<p>In a state of nature, Mr. Locke thought that people would pursue the same three rights: life, liberty, and property. He called these <b>natural rights</b>.</p>
<p><b>Life</b> means that people want to and will fight to survive.</p>	<p><b>Government</b> is a body formed by a social contract to protect people and their natural rights. Governments don't always do their job well, but that's why we have governments.</p>	<p>In a contract, everyone gives up something to reach a desired goal. In a <b>social contract</b>, everyone agrees to give up a little freedom to protect everyone's rights!</p>
<p>By <b>property</b>, Mr. Locke meant that people want to own things that will help them survive like land, food, and tools. People want to earn things.</p>	<p><b>Liberty</b> means that people want to be as free as possible to make their own decisions about how to live.</p>	<p>In order to be sure that all people could enjoy these three natural rights, people formed agreements of <b>social contracts</b>.</p>