Jeremy Bentham on Utilitarianism
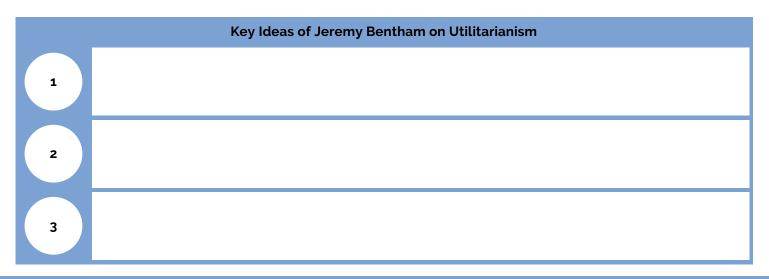
1. **Who** was Jeremy Bentham and what are his key ideas on utilitarianism?
2. **How** do Jeremy Bentham's key ideas on utilitarianism work?
3. **Why** are Jeremy Bentham's key ideas on utilitarianism important?

1. **Who** was Jeremy Bentham and what are his key ideas on utilitarianism?

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) was a British philosopher and social reformer best known for formulating utilitarianism. He was a child prodigy: shortly after his twelfth birthday, he went up to The Queen's College, Oxford, where he was awarded a BA in 1763 and a MA in 1766. After graduating, he trained as a lawyer and was called to the bar in 1769, but he never practised. Instead, he dedicated his life to writing and social reform, involving himself in various progressive projects. Make a note about who he was and what he did.

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

Jeremy Bentham introduced three key ideas about utilitarianism in his book, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation. Make a note about these three key ideas.

Key Ideas of Jeremy Bentham on Utilitarianism	
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2. **How** do Jeremy Bentham's key ideas on utilitarianism work?

Jeremy Bentham's key ideas on utilitarianism form an argument that supports ethical decision-making based on evaluating any given action's probable outcomes. He provided various instructions about how to go about this. Explain how each of Jeremy Bentham's key ideas works.

How the Key Ideas of Jeremy Bentham on Utilitarianism Work		
Good is equated with the promotion of happiness or pleasure.	The way the universe works makes utilitarianism the right ethical theory.	Moral decision-making can be conducted by calculation.

3. **Why** are Jeremy Bentham's key ideas on utilitarianism important?

The key ideas of Jeremy Bentham are important for three reasons in particular (although there are several others). Make a note about why his key ideas are important.

Why the Key Ideas of Jeremy Bentham on Utilitarianism Are Important	
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