**Context of Romanticism**

Age of Enlightenment (or simply the Enlighten**ment** or **Age of Reason**)

* was a [cultural movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_movement) of [intellectuals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intellectual)
* beginning in late 17th-century Western Europe continuing to the end of the 18th century.
* Its purpose was to reform society using reason, to challenge ideas grounded in tradition and faith, and to advance knowledge through the [scientific method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method).
* It promoted scientific thought, skepticism, and intellectual interchange.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment#cite_note-2)
* The Enlightenment was a revolution in human thought. This new way of thinking was that rational thought begins with clearly stated principles, uses correct logic to arrive at conclusions, tests the conclusions against evidence, and then revises the principles in the light of the evidence. (as opposed to the intuition, how you feel)
* Enlightenment thinkers opposed superstition.
* The [Scientific Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_Revolution) is closely tied to the Enlightenment, as its discoveries overturned many traditional concepts and introduced new perspectives on nature and man's place within it.
* The Enlightenment flourished until about 1790–1800, at which point the Enlightenment, with its emphasis on reason, gave way to [Romanticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism), which placed a new emphasis on emotion; felt the enlightenment ignored imagination etc.

**Romanticism** (also the **Romantic era** or the **Romantic period**)

* was an artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that originated in Europe toward the end of the 18th century and in most areas was at its peak in the approximate period from 1800 to 1850.
* Partly a reaction to the [Industrial Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrial_Revolution),[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism#cite_note-1) it was also a revolt against the aristocratic social and political norms of the [Age of Enlightenment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) and a reaction against the scientific [rationalization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationalization_%28sociology%29) of nature.
* It was embodied most strongly in the visual arts, music, and literature, but had a major impact on historiography,[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism#cite_note-3) education[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism#cite_note-4) and the [natural sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_sciences).[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism#cite_note-5)
* The movement validated intense emotion as an authentic source of [aesthetic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesthetic) experience, placing new emphasis on such emotions as [apprehension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apprehension_%28fear%29), [horror and terror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horror_and_terror), and [awe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Awe_%28emotion%29)—
* It prized intuition and emotion over the rationalism of the Enlightenment,
* Later on, in the second half of the 19th century, "[Realism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Realism_%28arts%29)" was offered as a polar opposite to Romanticism.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism#cite_note-6)