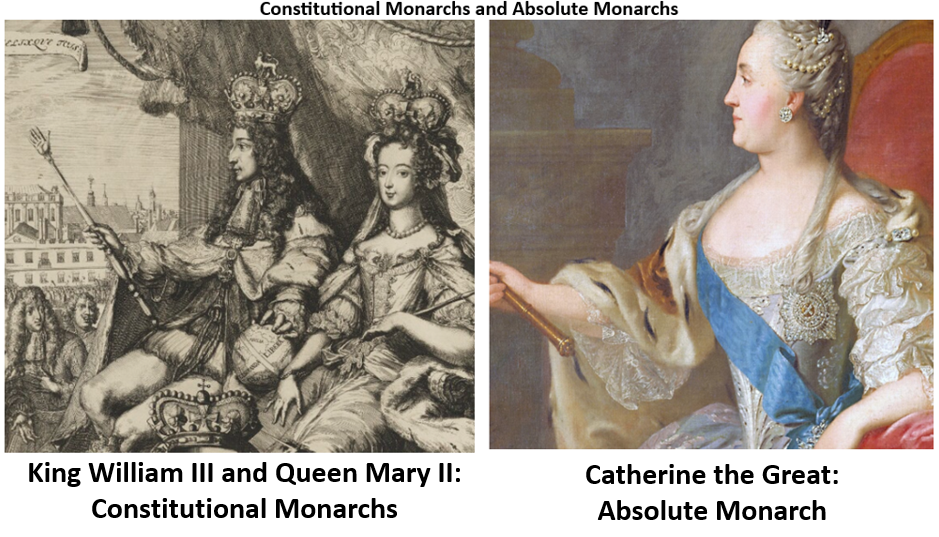
Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_



A **Constitutional Monarch** is a king or queen whose power is limited by laws or a constitution. This means they must share power with a group, such as a parliament, that helps make decisions for the country. The ruler cannot do whatever they want; they have to follow the law in terms of what power they actually have as monarch. For example, **King William III and Queen Mary II of** England, who ruled from 1689 to 1702, agreed to the English Bill of Rights, which gave more power to Parliament and less to the monarchs. This created a government where the king and queen had to work with representative Members of Parliament instead of ruling alone. An **Absolute Monarch** is a ruler who has total control over their country. They make all the laws, command the army, and decide how people live without needing anyone’s permission. For example, **King Louis XIV of France**, who ruled in the 1642 to 1715, believed he was chosen by God by Divine Right to rule and that his word was law. He forced many Nobles to live in the Palace of Versailles to control them. Another example is **Catherine the Great of Russia**, who ruled from 1762 to 1796, expanded her empire and made important decisions by herself. She initially thought about freeing the serfs, peasants who worked lands they could never own, but went against this and crushed serf revolts against her rule.

1. How might forcing a monarch to share power with a parliament change the way a country is governed?
2. (A) Why do you think many in England preferred to move toward a constitutional monarchy instead of keeping an absolute monarchy? (B) Why would some prefer an absolute monarch?
3. What do you think life was like for ordinary people under rulers like King Louis XIV or Catherine the Great?

**Answers:**

1. **How might forcing a monarch to share power with a parliament change the way a country is governed?**  
   Sharing power with Parliament can make a country’s government fairer and more balanced. The king or queen cannot make all the decisions alone, so laws and rules are checked by elected leaders. This can help prevent unfair laws and give ordinary people more of a voice in how the country is run.
2. **Why do you think many in England preferred to move toward a constitutional monarchy instead of keeping an absolute monarchy? Why would some prefer an Absolute Monarch?**  
   Many people in England wanted a constitutional monarchy because they didn’t want all the power in the hands of one ruler. Absolute monarchs could make decisions that hurt people or took away their rights. By limiting the monarch’s power and giving Parliament more control, laws were fairer and the government became more balanced. Absolute Monarchs could get things accomplished for quickly and efficiently.
3. **What do you think life was like for ordinary people under rulers like King Louis XIV or Catherine the Great?**  
   Life for ordinary people under absolute rulers like Louis XIV or Catherine the Great could be hard. These monarchs made all the big decisions, so common people had little say in the laws or taxes. Many people had to work very hard, pay high taxes, and obey strict rules, while the rulers lived in luxury and controlled the country completely.