

U.S. History 8

The Great Reformers

Part A. Fill in the notes using the screencast videos.

Expert Information: In the mid-1800s, a series of **reform movements** swept across the United States. It was a time when Americans felt they could make a difference, that they could make society better. American reformers tackled serious issues such as abolishing slavery, promoting women's rights, improving education, providing better care for the mentally ill, improving prison conditions, and educating the public on the dangers of alcohol.

Foundations of Reform

Some of the efforts to reform American society came out of new religious movements sweeping across the country. One such movement was the **Second Great _____** (a revival of _____ feeling and belief in the 1820s and 1830s) which emphasized the role that individuals played in their own societies.

- Another movement that came about was called _____. This was the belief in the goodness of _____. They truly believed a self-reliant man could reform society. It also disagreed with some institutions in society such as organized religion and political parties. A leading transcendentalist was **Henry David _____**. He advocated that people challenge _____ they considered unjust by refusing to obey them. This is known as **civil disobedience**. Others in the movement were Nathaniel _____ - writer; The Scarlet Letter Walt _____ - poet; Leaves of Grass, Ralph Waldo Emerson - poet; "Self-Reliance".

The works of a new group of American writers and artists inspired another set of reforms. In breaking free from their European counterparts, these artists created a voice and vision that were truly American. The resulting creations focused on American themes, gave the reader a message of hope or optimism, and gave a sense of richness to our history.

- Washington _____ - writer; Rip Van Winkle & The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
- James Fenimore Cooper - writer; The Last of the _____
- Herman _____ - writer; Moby Dick
- Henry Wadsworth _____ - poet; "Paul Revere's Ride"
- Emily _____ - poet; over 1700 poems written
John James _____ - identified over 25 new species of birds
_____ River School - portrayed the beauty of America
- Gilbert _____ - portrait painter; portraits of Founding Fathers
- Matthew _____ - historical photographer; noted for Civil War pictures

Events in the world of U.S. politics served to motivate the public as well. The election of Andrew Jackson in 1828, provided a sense of hope for all citizens. Jackson and his supporters established a political organization that would represent ordinary farmers, workers, and the poor. This new organization eventually became the Democratic Party. Jackson was the perfect example of how ordinary people could participate in democracy and even attain positions of leadership.

Part B. Use the screencast video to fill in the blanks.

Abolitionists

In the mid 1800s, a growing number of Americans, both black and white, were speaking out against _____. Many felt that the only way the U.S. could fulfill its promise to

promote "liberty and equality for _____" was to end slavery. The abolitionist movement began in the Revolutionary era, partially in response to the inhumane treatment of slaves and partially in an effort to remove blacks from white society. Although slavery ended in the North by the early 1800s, many Northerners still accepted southern slavery. The abolitionist wanted to end slavery in the United States. Both blacks and whites were involved in the cause. **William Lloyd _____** was a vocal abolitionist and publisher of the newspaper **The Liberator**. He also formed the American Anti-Slavery Society in 1833. The daughters of a Southern slave owner, **Angelina** and **Sarah _____** gave lectures all over the northern United States on the evils of slavery. Two of the best-known black abolitionists were **Frederick _____** and **Sojourner _____**. **Frederick Douglass**, an escaped slave, lectured against slavery and quickly became a leader in the abolitionist movement. In 1847, he started his own antislavery newspaper, **_____ Star**. **Sojourner Truth** was a former slave who was inspired by Douglass to speak out about the evils of slavery. Most abolitionists pursued their goals through the press and public debates, but some risked prison and death to help slaves escape. **Harriet _____** was a conductor on the **_____ Railroad** (a secret network of abolitionists that secretly helped runaway _____ to reach freedom in the _____ and Canada). Tubman, an escaped slave herself, helped more than 300 slaves to freedom. Tubman continued to help slaves even as the bounty on her life went up to \$40,000. The antislavery movement failed to gain a foothold in the South. Even Southerners who did not own any slaves defended the institution of slavery. While abolitionists were a minority even in the North, their peaceful efforts along with the violence directed against them swayed northern attitudes about slavery. The antislavery fight also paved the way for the next reform effort, the women's rights movement.

Women's Rights Movement

When **Lucretia Mott** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** attended the World Antislavery Convention in London in 1840, they were not allowed to speak about slavery simply because they were women. The two were outraged by this and other inequalities faced by women. Women had few political or legal rights: they could not _____ (suffrage) or hold _____, any wages they earned belonged to their _____, any property they had as single women became their husbands' upon marriage, and there was no law against women being abused by their husbands. Mott and _____, the daughter of a judge, decided to host a national women's rights convention in New York. The convention organizers modeled their proposal for women's rights, the Declaration of _____, on the Declaration of Independence. The _____ **Convention** demanded _____ for women at work, school, church, and in the voting booth. This convention marked the start of an organized women's rights movement. Abolitionists, like Douglass, Truth, and the Grimke sisters were active members. Other notables included **Susan B. _____** and Lucy Stone. Slowly, reformers for women's rights made progress. New York passed laws allowing women to keep property and wages. Massachusetts and Indiana passed more liberal divorce laws. Other reforms would take decades to become a reality. For instance, the right for women to vote would not be achieved until 1920.

Prison Reform and Care of the Disabled

As a favor to a friend, a Boston school teacher by the name of **Dorothea _____** agreed to teach a Sunday school class at a jail. Little did she realize at the time that her kindness would lead to a reform effort in the area of _____ and treatment of the mentally _____. Dix was overwhelmed by the conditions she saw in the prison: inmates bound in chains and locked in cages, children jailed with adults, food in short supply, and inmates crowded into dark, damp cells. A large number of inmates were imprisoned because they could not pay their debts (some debts were as small as \$20). What was most disturbing for Dix was the treatment of the mentally ill. Most individuals judged "insane" were locked away in prisons, where they were whipped and beaten for

their behavior. After touring other jails in Massachusetts, Dix issued a report to the state legislature highlighting the horrible conditions. Shocked by her report, the lawmakers voted to create new mental hospitals for the mentally ill. Dix was able get other reforms enacted, such as: the outlawing of cruel punishments, the discontinuing of debtors' prisons and the creation of a special justice system for children.

Public Education

In the mid-1800s the spirit of reform made its way to the classroom. At this time, few children attended school because of the cost. Efforts to change this practice were led by **Horace _____**, who would later receive the nickname "**father of American public schools**" for his work. Mann served as the head of the state board of education in Massachusetts. He spoke to the citizens about the importance of public schools in producing an educated citizenry. Reformers saw education as a way of solving some of the problems in society, such as poverty and crime. Under Mann's guidance, the citizens of Massachusetts voted to pay _____ to build better schools, to pay higher salaries for teachers, and to open schools to train teachers. Mann's ideas spread and his reforms were embraced by other states. While public schools were springing up across the country, not every child had the opportunity to a public education. Few girls were able to go to high school or college.

Temperance Movement

Alcohol abuse was widespread among men, women, and children. Reformers linked alcohol abuse to crime, the breakup of families, and mental illness. In the late 1820s, the _____ **movement** (a public campaign against the sale or drinking of _____) was started. By 1850, Maine banned the sale of alcohol and other states soon followed with similar legislation. While these laws were later repealed, the movement would once again gain strength in the late 1800s.

Labor Reform

Conditions in the workplace were horrible. A campaign began to decrease the number of work _____ to 8 a day. Reform also began to improve child labor laws. Eventually, labor _____ were formed to help protect workers such as the AFL/CIO and women in Lowell, Massachusetts.