An Era of Reform

To what extent did the reform movements of the mid-1800s improve life for Americans?

PREVIEW

Read the lyrics to the song “Let Us All Speak Our Minds.” Then answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. How would you describe the mood created by the lyrics?
2. Why do you think women would write and sing a song like this?
3. To what extent do you think the complaints mentioned in this song are still valid today?

READING NOTES

Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

reform transcendentalism Seneca Falls Convention
Second Great Awakening abolitionists Declaration of Sentiments

Section 2

1. What was the optimistic message of the Second Great Awakening?

2. Explain how this quotation by Henry David Thoreau reflects the philosophy of transcendentalism: “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears.”

3. How did transcendentalism contribute to the spirit of reform?
Section 3

1. Complete the flowchart to show the conditions in prisons during the mid-1800s and the reforms that were passed.

**Conditions in Prisons**  
- Inmates were bound in chains.

**Reforms**  
- Public asylums were created for the mentally ill.

2. Complete the sensory figure of Dorothea Dix to show her possible thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

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With my eyes,  
I see . . .

With my hands,  
I write . . .

With my heart,  
I feel . . .

With my feet, I travel to prisons to document the horrible conditions.
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Dorothea Dix
Section 4

1. Complete the flowchart to show the conditions of public education in the mid-1800s and the reforms that were passed.

   **Conditions of Public Education**
   - Few areas had public schools.

   **Reforms**
   - In Massachusetts, citizens voted to build better schools.

2. Complete the sensory figure of Horace Mann to show his possible thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

   With my eyes, I see . . .

   With my heart, I believe that women and African Americans . . .

   With my mouth, I speak out for . . .
Section 5

Complete the sensory figures to show the possible thoughts, feelings, and experiences of each abolitionist.

With my ears, I hear . . .

With my heart, I feel . . .

With my hands, I write . . .

**William Lloyd Garrison**

With my eyes, I see . . .

With my mouth, I speak . . .

With my hands, I write . . .

**Frederick Douglass**

With my eyes, I see . . .

With my mouth, I speak out . . .

With my heart, I feel . . .

**Sojourner Truth**
Section 6

1. Complete the flowchart to show the conditions of women in the mid-1800s and the reforms that were passed.

**Conditions of Women**
- Women could not vote or hold office.

**Reforms**
- New York gave women control over their property and wages.

2. Complete the sensory figure of Elizabeth Cady Stanton to show her possible thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

*With my eyes, I see...*

*With my hands, I write...*

*With my heart, I feel...*
Evaluate the extent to which the reform movements of the mid-1800s improved life for Americans. For each reform movement, assign a grade. Then list two things the movement did well and two suggestions for improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reform Movement</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Two Things the Movement Did Well</th>
<th>Two Suggestions for Improvement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prison reform movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education reform movement</td>
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<td>Abolitionist movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s rights movement</td>
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Preparing to Write: Making Generalizations

Throughout history, people have dreamed of having a perfect life. More than 2,000 years ago, the Greek philosopher Plato imagined an ideal society. Almost 500 years ago, an English statesman and author, Sir Thomas More, coined the term *utopia* from the Greek words meaning “no place.” In other words, utopia was a dream but not a reality.

Nevertheless, people have not stopped trying to create perfect societies. The Americans who created Brook Farm were no exception.

Many utopian communities were formed in the first half of the 1800s. What were their goals?

Why did George Ripley want to combine thinking and working at Brook Farm?

How did Brook Farm reflect the beliefs of transcendentalists?
**Writing a Commercial**

Suppose you could start a utopian community. What goals would you have for the community? How would you attract other people to join you?

Create a storyboard for a one-minute television commercial about your utopian community. Your storyboard should contain sketches and words to show what will happen in the commercial. The goals of your commercial are to inform people about your utopian community and to attract people to live there.

Use this rubric to evaluate your storyboard. Make changes in your storyboard if you need to.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The storyboard clearly communicates the goals of the commercial. The commercial will strongly motivate prospective members of the community. There are no spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The storyboard communicates the goals of the commercial. The commercial might motivate prospective members of the community. There are few spelling or grammar errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The storyboard does not communicate the goals of the commercial. The commercial will not motivate prospective members of the community. There are many spelling or grammar errors.</td>
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