

Votes and Voices

Trace the causes, course, and consequences of women's suffrage.

SS.8.A.4.14 "Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the women's suffrage movement (e.g., 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, Declaration of Sentiments)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that explain why the movement began, number the major events in the order they occurred, and circle the movement's national consequence.

The Long Fight for Suffrage

- ① In the early 1800s, women generally had fewer legal and political rights than men. In most states, they could not vote, serve on juries, or control wages and property after marriage. Reformers also saw women working for antislavery, temperance, and education causes while lacking a public voice in government. These limits led Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to call a meeting in Seneca Falls, New York, in July 1848. Their goal was to discuss women's rights and propose changes.
- ② At the convention, delegates approved the Declaration of Sentiments, a document modeled partly on the Declaration of Independence. It argued that men had created unjust laws and customs that kept women unequal. The declaration listed complaints about women's education, employment, property, and political power. Its most disputed demand called for women to receive the right to vote. About one hundred people signed the document. Newspapers mocked the convention, but the declaration gave reformers a clear statement of goals they could share and debate.
- ③ After Seneca Falls, suffrage supporters organized petitions, speeches, newspaper campaigns, and state-by-state efforts. Leaders including Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, and Stanton pressed lawmakers and the public. The Civil War and Reconstruction brought debates over citizenship and voting, yet the Fifteenth Amendment barred denying voting rights because of race, not sex. Some western states granted women voting rights before the nation did. After decades of organizing, Congress proposed the Nineteenth Amendment in 1919. Its ratification in 1920 prohibited denying citizens the right to vote on account of sex, a major national consequence of the movement.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two limits on women's rights helped cause the women's suffrage movement?

2 How did the Declaration of Sentiments turn concerns about inequality into goals for the movement? Use one detail from the passage.

3 What methods did suffrage supporters use after Seneca Falls, and how did these methods help the movement continue?

4 What was the major national consequence of the movement in 1920?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In 5 or 6 sentences, explain the women's suffrage movement as a cause, course, and consequence story. Include one cause, two actions or events from the movement's course, and its national consequence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that explain why the movement began, number the major events in the order they occurred, and circle the movement's national consequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two limits on women's rights helped cause the women's suffrage movement?	Women in most states could not vote, serve on juries, or control wages and property after marriage. Any two of these limits are correct.
2	How did the Declaration of Sentiments turn concerns about inequality into goals for the movement? Use one detail from the passage.	It listed complaints about unequal treatment in education, employment, property, and political power, and it demanded that women receive the right to vote.
3	What methods did suffrage supporters use after Seneca Falls, and how did these methods help the movement continue?	They used petitions, speeches, newspaper campaigns, and state-by-state efforts to press lawmakers and persuade the public over time.
4	What was the major national consequence of the movement in 1920?	The ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment prohibited denying citizens the right to vote on account of sex.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Women generally lacked voting rights and other legal control, which helped cause the suffrage movement. At Seneca Falls, reformers issued a declaration that named unequal laws and demanded voting rights. Supporters then used petitions, speeches, newspapers, and state campaigns to build support. Their work continued for decades even though federal voting protections initially did not include sex. The Nineteenth Amendment finally prohibited denying citizens the right to vote on account of sex.

Accept equivalent causes, events, and consequences that are supported by the passage. For the open response, look for a clear connection among a cause, at least two course details, and the Nineteenth Amendment's effect.