

Voices That Changed

Trace how individuals shaped social and political developments.

SS.8.A.4.8 "Describe the influence of individuals on social and political developments of this era in American History."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action taken by an individual, circle the social or political development it influenced, and number each action-development pair.

People and Public Change

- ① During the 1820s and 1830s, Andrew Jackson changed who took part in national politics. He presented himself as a champion of the common man and benefited as property requirements for voting disappeared in many states. More white men gained the vote, though women, free Black people, and enslaved people remained excluded. Jackson also used the president's veto power often, including against the Bank of the United States. His actions strengthened the presidency and stirred fierce debate over federal power.
- ② Frederick Douglass used his own story to challenge slavery. After escaping slavery in 1838, he became a powerful speaker for the abolitionist movement. His 1845 autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, described the violence and injustice he had experienced. The book gave many Northern readers evidence from a person who had been enslaved. Douglass's speeches and writing helped build opposition to slavery, increased support for abolition, and pushed slavery into public debate, even as the nation became more divided.
- ③ Elizabeth Cady Stanton connected demands for women's rights to the nation's political ideals. At the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, she helped write the Declaration of Sentiments, which argued that women deserved equal civil and political rights. The document included a call for women's suffrage, or voting rights. Some people criticized this demand, but it gave the women's rights movement a clear political goal. Stanton's work helped organize supporters and began a long campaign that eventually changed laws and voting rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What change in political participation occurred during Jackson's era, and who was still excluded?

2 How did Jackson's use of the veto influence the federal government?

3 How did Douglass's autobiography influence public views about slavery?

4 Why was Stanton's call for women's suffrage important to the women's rights movement?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two individuals from the passage. Write four or five sentences comparing how their actions influenced a social or political development, including one way their influence was similar or different.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each action taken by an individual, circle the social or political development it influenced, and number each action-development pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What change in political participation occurred during Jackson's era, and who was still excluded?	More white men gained the vote as property requirements disappeared in many states. Women, free Black people, and enslaved people remained excluded.
2	How did Jackson's use of the veto influence the federal government?	His frequent use of the veto strengthened the presidency and sparked debate over federal power.
3	How did Douglass's autobiography influence public views about slavery?	It gave Northern readers evidence from someone who had been enslaved. His writing helped build opposition to slavery, increase support for abolition, and bring slavery into public debate.
4	Why was Stanton's call for women's suffrage important to the women's rights movement?	It gave the movement a clear political goal, helped organize supporters, and began a long campaign for changed laws and voting rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Frederick Douglass used speeches and an autobiography to influence people's views about slavery. Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped write a document that demanded political rights for women. Both used words and public action to build support for reform movements. Douglass focused on ending slavery, while Stanton focused on women's civil and voting rights.

Accept responses that accurately name actions, connect each action to a social or political development, and make a valid comparison. Students may use different wording for the influences described in the passage.