Rights Across Borders

Compare how revolution and reform expanded rights, and where each fell short.

6-9.WH.4.3 "Analyze and evaluate the global expansion of liberty and democracy through revolution and reform movements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a right gained in each place, circle how people sought change, and number one remaining limit for each change to judge how far liberty or democracy expanded.

Two Paths to Change

1. In 1791, enslaved people in the French colony of Saint-Domingue began a revolt. They fought armies sent from France and faced years of violence. In 1804, the territory became Haiti, an independent country led by formerly enslaved people. The revolution ended slavery there and broke French colonial rule. These changes expanded liberty because people who had been treated as property gained legal freedom. Yet freedom did not mean everyone held equal political power. Many rural Haitians had little say in national decisions.

2. Nearly a century later, women in New Zealand sought change without overthrowing the government. They organized public meetings and collected signatures on petitions asking Parliament for the vote. In 1893, Parliament passed a law allowing adult women, including Māori women, to vote in national elections. This reform expanded democracy by bringing more people into elections. It did not give women every political right: women could not run for Parliament until a law changed that in 1919. Māori communities also faced continuing struggles over land and political power.

3. Haiti's revolution and New Zealand's voting reform happened far apart, but both challenged rules that kept groups from making choices about their lives. The methods differed: Haitians used armed struggle against colonial rule, while New Zealand activists used petitions to change a law. Their results differed too. One movement ended enslavement and created a new country; the other widened voting within an existing government. Together, they show liberty and democracy expanding in different parts of the world, but neither change made every person equally powerful.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Haiti's revolution expand liberty, and what limit remained?

2. How did the methods used by women in New Zealand help expand democracy? Name one limit of the reform.

3. Compare the methods and results of the two movements. How did each change who had power?

4. A student claims, "Both movements brought complete equality." Is that claim supported? Use evidence from both places.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a country where all adults can vote, but only wealthy adults can run for office. In four sentences, propose a reform, describe how people could seek it, explain how it could expand democracy, and identify one limit that might remain.

ANSWER KEY

Rights Across Borders

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.4.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a right gained in each place, circle how people sought change, and number one remaining limit for each change to judge how far liberty or democracy expanded. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Haiti's revolution expand liberty, and what limit remained?	**It ended slavery and French colonial rule in Haiti, but many rural Haitians had little say in national decisions.**
2	How did the methods used by women in New Zealand help expand democracy? Name one limit of the reform.	**Women held meetings and gathered signatures for petitions, helping win the vote for adult women in 1893. Women still could not run for Parliament.**
3	Compare the methods and results of the two movements. How did each change who had power?	**Haitians used armed struggle to end enslavement and colonial rule and create an independent country. New Zealand activists used petitions to win a law that let adult women vote.**
4	A student claims, "Both movements brought complete equality." Is that claim supported? Use evidence from both places.	**No. Many rural Haitians had little say in national decisions, and women in New Zealand could vote but could not run for Parliament until 1919.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The country should let any adult run for office, regardless of wealth. People could gather signatures and ask lawmakers to change the rule. More adults could then compete to represent voters, expanding democracy. Candidates without money might still struggle to reach voters.

Accept answers that distinguish gaining legal rights from gaining equal political power. For the final task, accept a plausible reform and a remaining limit that does not contradict the proposed change.