

# Voices for Rights

How women identified unfair limits and worked for change.

**4.5b** "Women have not always had the same rights as men in the United States and New York State. They sought to expand their rights and bring about change."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each right women were denied and circle each action people took to seek change, so you can see how people responded to unfair laws.

### Women Seek Change

- ① In the 1800s, women in the United States did not have the same legal rights as men. In many states, married women could not control their own money or property. Women usually could not vote, serve on juries, or hold public office. These limits affected daily life, even though women worked, paid taxes, and helped their communities in many ways.
- ② In 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott helped organize a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. About 300 people attended. At the meeting, Stanton read the Declaration of Sentiments, a document that named unfair treatment of women. It called for changes, including women's right to vote. Some people disagreed, but many signed the document.
- ③ Other people also worked for change. Sojourner Truth spoke powerfully about equal rights for women and African Americans. Susan B. Anthony traveled, gave speeches, and organized campaigns for women's voting rights. These leaders used meetings, speeches, and petitions to share their ideas. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment barred denying citizens the vote because of sex. Many women, especially women of color, still faced other barriers to voting.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Name two rights that women usually did not have in the 1800s.

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**2** Who helped organize the Seneca Falls convention, and what was one change the meeting called for?

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**3** How did the Declaration of Sentiments help women seek change?

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**4** What are two ways Susan B. Anthony worked for women's voting rights?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write a four-sentence petition from the point of view of a woman in the 1800s. Name one unfair limit, ask for a change, and tell one way people can support the change.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each right women were denied and circle each action people took to seek change, so you can see how people responded to unfair laws. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                                        |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Name two rights that women usually did not have in the 1800s.                                    | <b>Any two: voting, serving on juries, holding public office, or, in many states, controlling their own money or property after marriage.</b> |
| 2 | Who helped organize the Seneca Falls convention, and what was one change the meeting called for? | <b>Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott helped organize it. The meeting called for women's right to vote.</b>                             |
| 3 | How did the Declaration of Sentiments help women seek change?                                    | <b>It named unfair treatment of women and called for changes, including voting rights.</b>                                                    |
| 4 | What are two ways Susan B. Anthony worked for women's voting rights?                             | <b>She traveled, gave speeches, and organized campaigns. Any two are correct.</b>                                                             |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

To the leaders of our state, I ask you to change the law so women can vote. Women pay taxes and help their communities, yet they cannot choose leaders. Please listen to women at meetings and read our petitions. Giving women a vote would make the laws fairer.

Accept accurate rights or actions from the passage, stated in the student's own words. For the petition, accept a clear unfair limit, a requested change, and a realistic action such as speaking, meeting, or signing a petition.