

Faith Into Action

Trace how religious ideas helped inspire reform in New York.

7.7a “The Second Great Awakening, which had a strong showing in New York State, inspired reform movements.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline phrases that show how religious beliefs influenced reform. Circle each problem or reform campaign so you can trace cause and effect.

Revival and Reform

- ① In the early 1800s, religious revivals called the Second Great Awakening drew large crowds across the United States. New York became an important center, especially in a region later called the “Burned-Over District.” Preachers urged people to choose moral lives and improve society, not only themselves. Listeners formed voluntary groups, held meetings, and raised money. Many believed that faith required action against problems they saw in their communities. These ideas connected personal belief to public responsibility.
- ② Reformers focused on conditions that seemed unfair or harmful. In schools, Horace Mann and other advocates argued that children needed better public education. Dorothea Dix reported that many people with mental illness were kept in jails or poorhouses without proper care. Prison reformers criticized crowded, violent facilities. Temperance supporters warned that heavy alcohol use could damage families and workers. Each campaign identified a problem and pressed citizens and government leaders to change it through laws or institutions.
- ③ New York reformers turned religious ideals into organized action. At Seneca Falls in 1848, activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for women’s rights, linking equality to wider reform debates. In cities and towns, people built schools, circulated petitions, published arguments, and organized reform societies. Reformers used different methods, but many shared the belief that society could improve. The Second Great Awakening did not create every reformer, but it helped many people see social change as a moral duty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 According to the first paragraph, how did revival preachers connect personal behavior to society?

2 Choose one reform campaign from the second paragraph. What problem did it identify, and what change did reformers seek?

3 What happened at Seneca Falls in 1848, and what larger reform idea did it connect to?

4 Why does the passage say that the Second Great Awakening did not create every reformer?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you live in New York in the 1840s. Choose one harmful condition from the passage and write exactly three sentences: name it, propose one specific action, and explain how a Second Great Awakening belief could support your action.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline phrases that show how religious beliefs influenced reform. Circle each problem or reform campaign so you can trace cause and effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	According to the first paragraph, how did revival preachers connect personal behavior to society?	They urged people to live moral lives and improve society, not only themselves. They connected personal faith with public responsibility.
2	Choose one reform campaign from the second paragraph. What problem did it identify, and what change did reformers seek?	Answers vary. Education: children needed better public education, and advocates sought better schools. Mental health care: people were held in jails or poorhouses without proper care, and reformers sought proper care. Prison reform: facilities were crowded and violent, and reformers sought change. Temperance: heavy alcohol use harmed families and workers, and supporters sought to reduce its harms.
3	What happened at Seneca Falls in 1848, and what larger reform idea did it connect to?	Activists including Elizabeth Cady Stanton called for women's rights. They connected equality for women to wider reform debates.
4	Why does the passage say that the Second Great Awakening did not create every reformer?	The revival was an important influence, but it was not the only cause of reform. It helped many people view social change as a moral duty.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many people with mental illness are kept in jails or poorhouses without proper care. I would organize neighbors to petition state leaders for a hospital with trained caregivers. Because faith calls people to improve society, helping vulnerable neighbors is a moral duty.

Accept any condition accurately drawn from the passage and a historically reasonable action, such as petitioning, organizing a society, publishing an argument, or seeking a law or institution. The explanation should connect reform action to the belief that people had a moral duty to improve society.