

Voices for Change

How women used reform work to seek equal rights.

7.7c "Women joined the movements for abolition and temperance and organized to advocate for women's property rights, fair wages, education, and political equality."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each goal women sought. Number 1, 2, 3, and so on beside each action women took, so you can connect their methods to the changes they wanted.

Reformers Demand Equality

- ① In the decades before the Civil War, many women entered reform movements. Religious revivals of the Second Great Awakening encouraged people to improve society. Women spoke and organized in the abolition movement, which sought to end slavery. Sojourner Truth, a formerly enslaved woman, gave powerful speeches against slavery and for women's rights. Other women supported temperance, a movement to reduce alcohol use. These experiences taught women how to hold meetings, publish ideas, gather supporters, and demand change in public life.
- ② In July 1848, reformers met at the Seneca Falls Convention in New York. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott helped organize the meeting. Participants discussed unfair laws and customs that limited women's lives. They approved the Declaration of Sentiments, a document modeled partly on the Declaration of Independence. It listed grievances and argued that women should have equal rights, including a voice in government. The convention made women's political equality a public issue for many Americans.
- ③ Women continued to build organizations after Seneca Falls. Susan B. Anthony traveled, lectured, and collected petitions for women's voting rights. Matilda Joselyn Gage wrote and spoke for women's equality. Reformers also pressed for married women to control property they owned, for fair wages, and for greater access to education. These demands challenged the idea that women belonged only in the home. By working together, women used skills from earlier reform movements to seek legal, economic, educational, and political change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the abolition movement and the temperance movement each seek to change society?

2 What are two actions women learned to take through reform movements?

3 Why was the Seneca Falls Convention significant?

4 Name three rights or opportunities that women reformers sought after Seneca Falls.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence petition that a women's rights reformer could share in the 1850s. Name two rights or opportunities she seeks, describe one action reformers can take, and explain why the change matters.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each goal women sought. Number 1, 2, 3, and so on beside each action women took, so you can connect their methods to the changes they wanted. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the abolition movement and the temperance movement each seek to change society?	Abolition sought to end slavery. Temperance sought to reduce alcohol use.
2	What are two actions women learned to take through reform movements?	Any two: hold meetings, publish ideas, gather supporters, or demand change in public life.
3	Why was the Seneca Falls Convention significant?	It brought reformers together to discuss unfair limits on women, approve the Declaration of Sentiments, and make women's political equality a public issue.
4	Name three rights or opportunities that women reformers sought after Seneca Falls.	Any three: voting rights, control of property, fair wages, access to education, or political equality.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We ask lawmakers to let married women control their own property and to support fair wages for women workers. We will collect signatures and present a petition at public meetings. These changes matter because women deserve equal treatment under the law and in their work.

Accept a historically appropriate three-sentence petition that names two valid goals, one action such as petitioning, speaking, organizing, or publishing, and a clear reason for equality. Wording may vary.