Voices for Change

How leaders shaped the women's rights movement

8.C.10.4.B "Describe the role of the movement's primary leaders (e.g., Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Grimké sisters)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each leader's name and circle an action that shows how that leader advanced women's rights.

Different Ways to Lead

1. In the 1830s, sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké spoke against slavery in public, even though many people said women should not give speeches to audiences of both men and women. The sisters argued that women needed the freedom to speak and act against injustice. Their speeches and writing linked the fight to end slavery with the fight for women's rights. Lucretia Mott, a Quaker minister and abolitionist, also spoke publicly for equality. By taking part in public meetings, these women challenged rules about who could lead reform.

2. In 1848, Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton helped organize a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Stanton drafted the Declaration of Sentiments, which listed ways laws and customs denied women equal standing. At the convention, Stanton supported a call for women's voting rights, an idea that some attendees found too bold. Mott's experience speaking for reform helped bring people together, while Stanton's writing gave the movement a clear public statement of its demands. Neither woman could vote in national elections at the time.

3. In the 1850s, Susan B. Anthony joined the women's rights movement and became an organizer. She traveled, delivered speeches, gathered signatures on petitions, and pressed lawmakers to change voting laws. Anthony and Stanton worked together: Stanton often wrote arguments, and Anthony carried them to meetings and campaigns. In 1872, Anthony voted in a presidential election to challenge laws that barred women from voting. She was arrested and fined but refused to pay the fine. Their different strengths helped keep the demand for voting rights visible for decades.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Grimké sisters challenge ideas about women's role in public life?

2. What did Lucretia Mott do to help build the women's rights movement?

3. How did Elizabeth Cady Stanton give the movement a clear set of demands?

4. How did Susan B. Anthony press for voting rights through both organizing and direct action?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing two leaders from different paragraphs. Explain each leader's distinct role and how their different actions strengthened the movement across time, using at least two facts from the passage.

Voices for Change

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each leader's name and circle an action that shows how that leader advanced women's rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Grimké sisters challenge ideas about women's role in public life?	**They spoke publicly against slavery and argued that women should be free to speak and act against injustice.**
2	What did Lucretia Mott do to help build the women's rights movement?	**She spoke publicly for equality and helped organize the 1848 Seneca Falls convention.**
3	How did Elizabeth Cady Stanton give the movement a clear set of demands?	**She drafted the Declaration of Sentiments and supported a call for women's voting rights at Seneca Falls.**
4	How did Susan B. Anthony press for voting rights through both organizing and direct action?	**She gave speeches, gathered petition signatures, and pressed lawmakers. In 1872, she voted in a presidential election to challenge laws that barred women from voting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Grimké sisters made public speaking a challenge to rules that silenced women. By connecting opposition to slavery with women's rights, they helped people hear arguments for equality. Years later, Susan B. Anthony organized petitions, gave speeches, and pressed lawmakers to change voting laws. The sisters challenged limits on who could speak about injustice, while Anthony used public action to keep a specific demand, voting rights, before lawmakers.

Accept other passage-supported descriptions of each leader's role. For the museum label, look for two leaders from different paragraphs, accurate facts about both, and an original comparison of their contributions.