Voices and Votes

Trace how abolition work grew into a campaign for political equality.

8.C.10.4 "Evaluate the goals and efforts of the Women's Suffrage Movement toward political equality. Trace the emergence of the women's rights movement from the abolitionist movement. Describe the role of the movement's primary leaders (e.g...."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence that abolition work led to a women's rights movement, circle a democratic principle in the Declaration of Sentiments, and box one suffrage tactic and its result.

From Antislavery Meetings to the Ballot

1 In the 1830s, sisters Sarah and Angelina Grimké spoke against slavery. They also argued that women had the right to speak in public, even when crowds objected. Many women worked in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery. Yet women who organized meetings and gathered signatures could not vote. At an 1840 antislavery meeting in London, women delegates, including Lucretia Mott, were denied equal participation. Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Mott there. Their experience sharpened a question: How could a movement demand freedom while limiting women's voices?

2 In 1848, Mott and Stanton helped organize a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Stanton drafted most of its Declaration of Sentiments, which echoed the Declaration of Independence. It said "all men and women are created equal" and argued that governments should rest on the consent of the governed. The document listed unfair laws and customs, including restrictions on women's property rights and opportunities for education and work. It demanded that women gain the vote, so they could help change the laws that governed their lives.

3 The campaign did not end in 1848. Susan B. Anthony later traveled, gave speeches, and organized petitions for women's voting rights. In 1872, she voted in a presidential election and was arrested, making the conflict between citizenship and voting visible. After decades of organizing, the Nineteenth Amendment took effect in 1920, banning denial of voting rights based on sex. That victory did not erase racist voting barriers, such as literacy tests, that still kept many Black women from the polls. Political equality remained unfinished.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did women's work in the abolitionist movement help bring about the Seneca Falls convention?

2. How did the demand for women's voting rights follow from a democratic principle in the Declaration of Sentiments?

3. Why might Anthony's decision to vote in 1872 have helped the suffrage campaign, even though she was arrested?

4. Did the Nineteenth Amendment complete the movement's goal of political equality? Use evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence statement from the viewpoint of a woman who worked for abolition in 1848. Connect one experience from the passage to the demand for voting rights, name one democratic principle in the Declaration of Sentiments, and explain why the demand follows from that principle.

ANSWER KEY

Voices and Votes

GRADE 8 · 8.C.10.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline evidence that abolition work led to a women's rights movement, circle a democratic principle in the Declaration of Sentiments, and box one suffrage tactic and its result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did women's work in the abolitionist movement help bring about the Seneca Falls convention?	**Women organized and spoke for abolition but faced limits on their own participation. Mott and Stanton met after women delegates were denied equal participation at an antislavery meeting, then helped organize the 1848 convention.**
2	How did the demand for women's voting rights follow from a democratic principle in the Declaration of Sentiments?	**The declaration argued that government should rest on the consent of the governed. Women needed the vote to have a say in the laws that governed them.**
3	Why might Anthony's decision to vote in 1872 have helped the suffrage campaign, even though she was arrested?	**Her arrest drew attention to the conflict between women's citizenship and their exclusion from voting.**
4	Did the Nineteenth Amendment complete the movement's goal of political equality? Use evidence from the passage.	**No. It banned denying voting rights based on sex, but racist barriers such as literacy tests still kept many Black women from voting.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I have gathered signatures to end slavery, but I cannot vote for leaders who make our laws. When women delegates were denied equal participation at the London antislavery meeting, I saw how easily our voices could be dismissed. The Declaration of Sentiments says government needs the consent of the governed. Women must have the vote so we can give or withhold that consent.

Accept other passage-supported links between abolition work and women's rights. For the open task, look for a historically plausible 1848 viewpoint, a specific experience, and a clear link between a democratic principle and voting rights.