Revival to Reform

Trace how religious ideas became public action.

8.C.10.5 "Evaluate the significance and key leaders of the Second Great Awakening including how it sparked a number of reform movements, such as temperance and abolitionism, which addressed societal issues."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of three leaders and circle the problems they tried to address. Draw an arrow from each leader's action to a problem it targeted.

Beyond the Revival Meeting

1. In the early 1800s, a crowd might gather outdoors to hear a preacher call for change. This was the Second Great Awakening, a wave of Protestant religious revivals in the United States. At revivals, speakers urged people to choose a new way of living rather than wait for change to happen. Women and men took part in prayer meetings and joined groups to help others. The movement mattered beyond church walls: many participants believed they could help improve society as well as their own lives.

2. Charles Grandison Finney, a leading revival preacher, urged listeners to make a personal decision about faith. He also spoke against slavery and supported temperance, the effort to reduce or stop drinking alcohol. Minister Lyman Beecher warned that heavy drinking harmed families and communities. He promoted temperance through sermons and organized campaigns. For these leaders, a religious call to change personal behavior could also become a call to change public habits. Their messages gave reformers shared goals and networks of people willing to act.

3. Abolitionists sought to end slavery, not just change an individual's habits. Sojourner Truth, who had been enslaved in New York, traveled and spoke against slavery. Her Christian faith shaped her message about human dignity. Revivals did not make every participant an abolitionist, and reformers disagreed about what change required. Still, the Second Great Awakening helped spread the idea that people had a duty to confront wrongs. Its significance lies partly in the link between belief and organized action, including campaigns against slavery and heavy drinking.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Finney connect his revival message to two reform causes?

2. Why was Beecher's temperance work an example of reform beyond church walls?

3. How did Truth's life and faith shape her role in abolitionism?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say the Second Great Awakening made every participant an abolitionist? What influence did it have instead?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 4 to 5 sentences titled "From Revival to Reform." Compare two leaders from the passage, explain how their work addressed different societal problems, and judge why the movement mattered beyond churches.

ANSWER KEY

Revival to Reform

GRADE 8 · 8.C.10.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of three leaders and circle the problems they tried to address. Draw an arrow from each leader's action to a problem it targeted. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Finney connect his revival message to two reform causes?	**Finney urged people to make a personal decision about faith. He also spoke against slavery and supported temperance.**
2	Why was Beecher's temperance work an example of reform beyond church walls?	**Beecher used sermons and organized campaigns to address heavy drinking, which he believed harmed families and communities.**
3	How did Truth's life and faith shape her role in abolitionism?	**Truth had been enslaved, and her Christian faith shaped her message about human dignity as she spoke against slavery.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say the Second Great Awakening made every participant an abolitionist? What influence did it have instead?	**Not every participant opposed slavery. The movement helped spread the belief that people had a duty to confront wrongs and inspired organized reform.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From Revival to Reform: The Second Great Awakening encouraged some Americans to turn religious beliefs into public action. Lyman Beecher used sermons and campaigns to challenge heavy drinking, which he believed harmed families. Sojourner Truth drew on her Christian faith as she spoke against slavery, a different injustice. Their approaches differed, but both brought moral arguments into public life. The movement mattered beyond churches because it helped people organize to address problems they believed society could change.

Accept any two passage leaders if the label accurately compares their roles and identifies different problems they addressed. Look for a supported judgment about the movement's influence beyond religious meetings.