

Reform's Ripple Effects

Evaluate how reformers changed American life, and where change fell short.

8.24.B "evaluate the impact of reform movements, including educational reform, temperance, the women's rights movement, prison reform, the labor reform movement, and care of the disabled."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reform action in the passage. Circle a phrase that shows its impact or a limit on its impact, then number the six reform movements from 1 to 6.

Changing Society Through Reform

- ① During the early 1800s, many Americans believed that society could improve. Education reformers such as Horace Mann argued that tax-supported common schools could prepare children for citizenship and work. Massachusetts increased support for public schools, and other states followed. These efforts expanded schooling, but attendance was not equal. Many rural children, Black children, and poor children still faced short terms, segregated schools, or no school. Reformers also created institutions for people with disabilities. Samuel Gridley Howe led the Perkins Institution for blind students, showing that education could build independence, though such services reached few people.
- ② Temperance reformers asked people to reduce or stop drinking alcohol. Groups such as the American Temperance Society spread their message through meetings, pledges, and newspapers. Their campaign changed behavior for some families and helped several states pass alcohol limits, but enforcement was difficult and many people opposed the laws. Women gained organizing experience in reform groups. In 1848, the Seneca Falls Convention issued the Declaration of Sentiments, demanding equal rights, including voting rights. It did not win the vote immediately, but it made women's political equality a national issue.
- ③ Labor reform grew as factories hired long hours for low pay. In Lowell, Massachusetts, women mill workers organized strikes and petitions to protest wage cuts and demand shorter hours. Their actions drew attention to factory conditions, even when owners refused their demands. Other workers pressed for a ten-hour day, and some states later shortened hours for certain workers. Prison reformers, including Dorothea Dix, reported crowded, unhealthy jails where people with mental illness were held. Her reports helped persuade states to build hospitals, moving some people out of jails. Still, institutions could be harsh, and problems remained.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did education reform expand opportunities, and what kept its impact from reaching all children?

2 Compare the immediate impact of temperance reform with the immediate impact of the women's rights movement.

3 What was one impact of the Lowell workers' actions, and what was one later result of labor reform?

4 What did prison reform achieve, and why was its impact incomplete?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that you are a newspaper editor in 1850. Write five sentences supporting one reform from the passage, explaining one change it made, one limit on its impact, and one specific next step reformers should take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each reform action in the passage. Circle a phrase that shows its impact or a limit on its impact, then number the six reform movements from 1 to 6. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did education reform expand opportunities, and what kept its impact from reaching all children?	Tax-supported common schools expanded schooling and prepared children for citizenship and work. Many rural, Black, and poor children still had short school terms, segregated schools, or no school.
2	Compare the immediate impact of temperance reform with the immediate impact of the women's rights movement.	Temperance changed some families' behavior and helped states pass alcohol limits. The women's rights movement did not win voting rights immediately, but it made women's political equality a national issue.
3	What was one impact of the Lowell workers' actions, and what was one later result of labor reform?	Their actions drew attention to factory conditions. Some states later shortened hours for certain workers.
4	What did prison reform achieve, and why was its impact incomplete?	Dorothea Dix's reports helped persuade states to build hospitals and move some people out of jails. The new institutions could still be harsh, and problems remained.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I support education reform because tax-supported common schools have expanded schooling in Massachusetts and elsewhere. Schools can prepare children for citizenship and work. Yet many rural, Black, and poor children still have short terms, segregated schools, or no school. States should provide money for longer school terms and schools in underserved communities. This would help the reform reach more children.

Accept supported evaluations that name a reform's effect and a limitation from the passage. For the open response, accept a reasonable, specific next step that fits the selected reform.