

Voices for Change

Trace strategies, goals, and effects of nineteenth-century reform.

8.24 "Culture. The student understands the major reform movements of the 19th century. The student is expected to: describe and evaluate the historical development of the abolition movement..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two abolitionist actions that exposed slavery's moral wrong, circle each stated goal or impact of another reform movement, and number the sentence that describes a limit of reform.

Reformers Challenge Society

- ① In the early nineteenth century, many Americans organized reform movements because they believed society could change. Abolitionists demanded an end to slavery. Black activists, including Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, gave speeches and published accounts of slavery. William Lloyd Garrison printed *The Liberator*, an antislavery newspaper. Formerly enslaved people's testimonies, antislavery meetings, petitions, and newspapers led more people to confront slavery's violence and family separations. The Underground Railroad helped enslaved people escape. These activities framed slavery as a moral wrong, not only a political or economic issue.
- ② Other reformers targeted institutions and daily life. Horace Mann supported tax-funded public schools and teacher training, hoping education would reach more children. Temperance advocates urged people to reduce or stop drinking alcohol, which they linked to poverty and family harm. At the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott helped issue a declaration demanding equal rights for women. Dorothea Dix investigated jails and asylums, using reports to argue for more humane care for people with mental illness.
- ③ Reformers also challenged harsh treatment at work and barriers faced by people with disabilities. Labor activists protested long hours, unsafe factories, and low wages. Their pressure helped make shorter workdays a public goal, although change came slowly and unevenly. Samuel Gridley Howe helped create schools and services for blind people, while Thomas Gallaudet helped establish education for deaf students. These efforts expanded opportunities, yet reform movements often met resistance. Evaluating them means weighing both their immediate limits and the new public attention, institutions, and arguments for rights they created.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two actions abolitionists used to focus attention on slavery. How did these actions present slavery as a moral issue?

2 Compare the goals of educational reform and temperance reform. What problem did each movement try to address?

3 How did the Seneca Falls declaration and Dorothea Dix's reports use different methods to seek reform?

4 What evidence from the passage supports the judgment that reform movements made gains but also had limits?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one reform movement named in the passage. Write exactly three sentences that identify its problem, explain one strategy reformers used, and evaluate its intended change or impact.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two abolitionist actions that exposed slavery's moral wrong, circle each stated goal or impact of another reform movement, and number the sentence that describes a limit of reform. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two actions abolitionists used to focus attention on slavery. How did these actions present slavery as a moral issue?	Answers may name speeches, published accounts, <i>The Liberator</i>, testimonies, meetings, petitions, or the Underground Railroad. The actions exposed slavery's violence and family separations and framed it as a moral wrong.
2	Compare the goals of educational reform and temperance reform. What problem did each movement try to address?	Educational reform sought tax-funded public schools and teacher training so education could reach more children. Temperance reform urged people to reduce or stop drinking alcohol because advocates linked it to poverty and family harm.
3	How did the Seneca Falls declaration and Dorothea Dix's reports use different methods to seek reform?	The Seneca Falls declaration demanded equal rights for women. Dix investigated jails and asylums, then used reports to argue for more humane care for people with mental illness.
4	What evidence from the passage supports the judgment that reform movements made gains but also had limits?	Labor pressure made shorter workdays a public goal, and schools and services expanded opportunities for people with disabilities. However, change came slowly and unevenly, and reform movements often met resistance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Reformers for people with disabilities challenged barriers to education and services. Samuel Gridley Howe helped create schools and services for blind people, hoping to expand their opportunities. This movement had an important impact because it expanded opportunities, even though reform movements often faced resistance.

Accept any movement and accurate evidence from the passage. The response should include a problem, a strategy, and a supported judgment about the movement's intended change or impact.