

Faith Fuels Reform

Trace how religious revivals influenced reform movements.

8.25.B “describe religious influences on social movements, including the impact of the first and second Great Awakenings; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each religious belief, revival, or church activity that influenced people. Number each social movement or reform it helped inspire so you can trace the connections.

Revival and Reform

- ① In the 1730s and 1740s, the First Great Awakening swept through Britain’s North American colonies. Preachers such as George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards urged listeners to seek a personal, emotional relationship with God. Outdoor sermons drew large crowds, including people who did not belong to established churches. New congregations formed, and Baptist churches gained followers. The movement challenged the idea that only wealthy or well-connected leaders should guide religious life. It encouraged ordinary people to question traditional authority and make choices about faith.
- ② Religious revivals returned with the Second Great Awakening, beginning around 1800. Camp meetings and traveling preachers reached frontier communities, while churches asked individuals to improve themselves and society. Many believers thought people could choose to reject sin and work toward a better world. This belief helped inspire reform movements. Religious activists joined temperance campaigns against alcohol abuse, organized Sunday schools and missions, and pushed for prison and school reforms. Women gained experience speaking, organizing meetings, and raising money through these religious efforts.
- ③ The Second Great Awakening also influenced abolitionism, the movement to end slavery. Some reformers, including Black church leaders and white evangelical abolitionists, argued that slavery violated Christian teachings about human worth. They gave speeches, published antislavery writings, and aided freedom seekers. Religious arguments did not persuade everyone, however. Some Americans used religion to defend slavery, showing that faith could support opposing views. Women who had organized in churches later brought their skills to the women’s rights movement. Religious revivals therefore shaped both ideas and actions in several social movements.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What idea from the First Great Awakening challenged traditional religious authority?

2 Name two reforms connected to the Second Great Awakening. What religious belief helped inspire these reforms?

3 How did some abolitionists use religious beliefs to argue against slavery?

4 Why does the passage say that religion could support opposing views about slavery?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose either abolitionism or the women's rights movement. Write four sentences that explain how religious revival ideas or church experiences influenced that movement. Include one specific action or skill from the passage and its effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each religious belief, revival, or church activity that influenced people. Number each social movement or reform it helped inspire so you can trace the connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What idea from the First Great Awakening challenged traditional religious authority?	It encouraged ordinary people to make their own choices about faith instead of accepting guidance only from wealthy or well-connected leaders.
2	Name two reforms connected to the Second Great Awakening. What religious belief helped inspire these reforms?	Answers may name temperance, Sunday schools and missions, prison reform, or school reform. Many believers thought people could reject sin and work to improve themselves and society.
3	How did some abolitionists use religious beliefs to argue against slavery?	They argued that slavery violated Christian teachings about human worth.
4	Why does the passage say that religion could support opposing views about slavery?	Some religious reformers opposed slavery, but some Americans used religion to defend slavery.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Religious revivals helped prepare some women for the women's rights movement. In churches, women organized meetings and raised money for reform efforts. These experiences built skills in public leadership. Later, women used those skills to work for women's rights.

Accept responses that accurately connect a religious belief, revival, or church experience to the chosen movement. The response should include a specific action or skill from the passage and explain its effect.