The Reform Movements throughout the Early United States
The Era of Reform 1800-1865

- The Great Awakening: 1740s & George Whitefield
- The DOI (1776) & The Constitution (1787) Thomas Jefferson and James Madison
- The Second Great Awakening: 1800s
- Transcendentalism
- Abolitionists
- Women’s Right’s Movement
Reform Movement

- Civic Rights and Responsibilities
- Reforms in the 1800s covered a wide variety of areas, including religion, education, mental illness, special needs, and use of alcohol.
- People began to involve themselves in these movements. The “common man” began to take notice of his/her individual power and, in turn, responsibility.
The Second Great Awakening

- In the early 1800s, a wave of religious fervor—known as the **Second Great Awakening**—stirred the nation.

- The new religious movement began with frontier camp meetings called **revivals**.

- Ministers such as **Charles Finney** led men and women to pray, sing, weep, and shout.

- The Second Great Awakening increased church membership, especially among Methodists and Baptists.
Reform Movements

- Utopias: Robert Owen
- Temperance Movement & Alcohol reform: Lyman Beecher
- Education: Horace Mann
- Mentally ill: Dorothea Dix
Educational Reform

- The leader of educational reform was **Horace Mann**, a lawyer who became head of the Massachusetts Board of Education.
- During his term, Mann…
  - lengthened the school year to six months.
  - made improvements in the school curriculum.
  - doubled teachers’ salaries.
  - developed better ways of training teachers.
By the 1850s all states had accepted three basic principles of public education:

- Schools should be free and supported by taxes.
- Teachers should be trained.
- Children should be required to attend school.

Dozens of new colleges and universities were created during the age of reform.

Religious groups founded many colleges between 1820 and 1850.

Slowly, higher education became available to groups who were previously denied the opportunity.

Oberlin College of Ohio, founded in 1833, admitted both women and African Americans to the student body.
People with Special Needs

- **Thomas Gallaudet**, who developed a method of educating the hearing impaired, opened the Hartford School for the Deaf in Connecticut in 1817.

- **Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe**, who headed the Perkins Institute—a school for the blind—developed books with large raised letters that people with sight impairments could “read” with their fingers.
New Attitudes Toward Mental Illness

- When schoolteacher **Dorothea Dix** visited women’s jails in Massachusetts, she found that some women confined there were mentally ill instead of criminally guilty.
- She took notes on what she saw and made a report to the Massachusetts legislature, which agreed to spend the money needed to provide better care for the mentally ill.
American Art

- American painters started choosing subjects that were specifically American.
  - A group of painters, known as the Hudson River School, painted landscapes of the Hudson River valley in New York.
  - George Catlin painted hundreds of pictures of Native American life in the West.
  - George Caleb Bingham of Missouri celebrated contemporary river and frontier life.
  - In paintings and sketches, John James Audubon portrayed the birds of America.
George Catlin: nature
George Catlin
John James Audubon 1785-1851

The American Crow

American Swan
John James Audubon 1785-1851

Common Buzzard

The Great Horned Owl
Tanscendentalists

- Nature, humans, action
- Stresses the importance of individual conscience
  - Ralph Waldo Emerson
  - Gandhi
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- Use your conscience; break the bonds of prejudice and oppression
Transcendentalists

- **Transcendentalists** stressed the relationship between humans and nature as well as the importance of the individual conscience. 🔽
  - **Margaret Fuller** supported rights for women. 🔽
  - **Ralph Waldo Emerson** urged people to listen to the inner voice of conscience and to break the bonds of prejudice. 🔽
  - **Henry David Thoreau** put his beliefs into practice through **civil disobedience**—refusing to obey laws he thought were unjust.
Did you discover...?

How did religious and philosophical ideas inspire various reform movements?

Leaders of reform movements wanted to extend the nation’s ideals of liberty and equality to all Americans. They formed societies and attempted to pass laws based upon their beliefs.
Why did educational reformers think all citizens should go to school?

They believed a democracy could not survive without educated citizens.
How did a new American style develop in art and literature?

Instead of looking to Europe for inspiration and models, American artists developed their own styles and explored American themes.
The spirit of reform that swept the United States in the early 1800s included the efforts of abolitionists—reformers who worked to abolish, or end, slavery.

The religious revival and the reform movement of the early and mid-1800s gave new life to the antislavery movement.

Many Americans came to believe that slavery was wrong, but not all Northerners shared this view.
William Lloyd Garrison

- Abolitionist **William Lloyd Garrison** went to work for the country’s leading antislavery paper in Baltimore.
- Impatient with the paper’s moderate position, Garrison returned to Boston in 1831 to found his own newspaper, *The Liberator*.
- Garrison was the first white abolitionist to call for the “immediate and complete emancipation” of enslaved people.
- He attracted enough followers to start the New England Antislavery Society in 1832 and the American Antislavery Society a year later.
- The **abolitionist movement** grew rapidly.
- By 1838 the antislavery societies Garrison started had more than 1,000 chapters, or local branches.
William Lloyd Garrison and Frederick Douglass
Frederick Douglass

- **Frederick Douglass**, the most widely known African American abolitionist, was born enslaved in Maryland.
- After teaching himself to read and write, he escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1838 and settled first in Massachusetts and then in New York.
- He joined the Massachusetts Antislavery Society and traveled widely to address abolitionist meetings.
- For 16 years, Douglass edited an antislavery newspaper called the *North Star*.
- He insisted that African Americans receive not just their freedom but full equality with whites as well.
Sojourner Truth

- When New York banned slavery in 1827, Isabella Baumfree’s owner insisted that she stay another year. She fled.
- In 1843 she chose a new name, Sojourner Truth, and began to speak against slavery and for women’s rights.
- She had never been taught to read or write, but she spoke with wit and wisdom.
Sojourner Truth
The Underground Railroad

- Some abolitionists risked prison—even death—by secretly helping enslaved Africans escape.

- The network of escape routes out of the South came to be called the **Underground Railroad**.

- The runaway slaves traveled through the night, guided by the North Star.
During the day passengers rested at “stations”—barns, attics, church basements, or other places where fugitives could rest, eat, and hide until the next night’s journey.

The railroad’s “conductors” were whites and African Americans who helped guide the escaping slaves to freedom in the North.

Once in the North, however, fugitives still feared capture.
Harriet Tubman
Some 3,000 members of the Underground Railroad helped thousands of enslaved African Americans find freedom.

Harriet Tubman returned to the South 19 times to help several hundred enslaved African Americans flee.
Introduction

- In the early 1800s, American women lacked many of the rights that men enjoyed.
- The British system of law, which the American states had adopted after independence, made men the guardians of women.
- Unmarried women came under the authority of their fathers or nearest male relatives, while married women came under their husbands’ authority.
- Widows and single women could own property and make wills.
- When they married, however, control of their property and earnings passed to their husbands.
Women and Reform

- Women played a major role in all the American reform movements of the 1800s and were especially active in the campaign to end slavery.

- Some men believed that women should not speak in public or publish their writings.

- When American women attended a world antislavery meeting in London in 1840, they had to sit behind a curtain that separated them from the all-male meeting.
The Birth of the Movement

- Gender prejudice turned many women abolitionists to become the first American feminists, people who work for women’s rights.

- Like many of the women reformers, Lucretia Mott was a Quaker.

- Quaker women, who enjoyed a certain amount of equality in their own communities, were particularly disturbed by the sexism in the antislavery movement.

- At the world antislavery convention in London, Mott met Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

- There the two female abolitionists joined forces to work for women’s rights.
Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony
The Seneca Falls Convention

- In July 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and others organized the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

- About 200 women and 40 men attended.

- The convention issued a Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions modeled on the Declaration of Independence.
Women's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, NY 1848
The Seneca Falls Convention (cont.)

- The Seneca Falls declaration...
  - listed women’s grievances against men.
  - called for an end to all laws that discriminated against women.
  - demanded that women be allowed to enter the all-male world of trades, professions, and businesses.

Elizabeth Stanton insisted that the declaration include a demand for woman suffrage, but delegates thought the idea of women voting was too radical.
The Seneca Falls Convention (cont.)

- A controversial issue was suffrage, or the right to vote.

- Elizabeth Stanton insisted that the declaration include a demand for woman suffrage, but delegates thought the idea of women voting was too radical.
The Movement Grows

- The Seneca Falls Convention paved the way for the growth of the **women’s rights movement**.
- Many reformers—including William Lloyd Garrison—joined the movement.
- **Susan B. Anthony** worked for women’s rights, temperance, and the reform of New York property and divorce laws.
- She called for college training for girls, equal pay for women, and **coeducation**—the teaching of boys and girls together.
The Movement Grows (cont.)

- Beginning with Wyoming in 1890, several states granted women the right to vote.
- It was not until 1920, however, that woman suffrage became a reality everywhere in the United States.