

The Spirit of Reform

Lesson 3 The Women's Movement

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do new ideas change the way people live?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What did women do to win equal rights?*
2. *In what areas did women make progress in achieving equality?*

Terms to Know

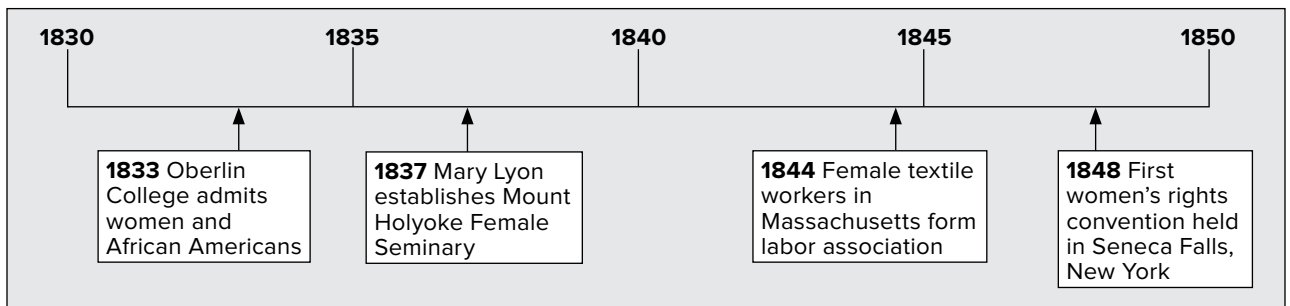
suffrage the right to vote

coeducation the teaching of males and females together

Where in the world?



When did it happen?

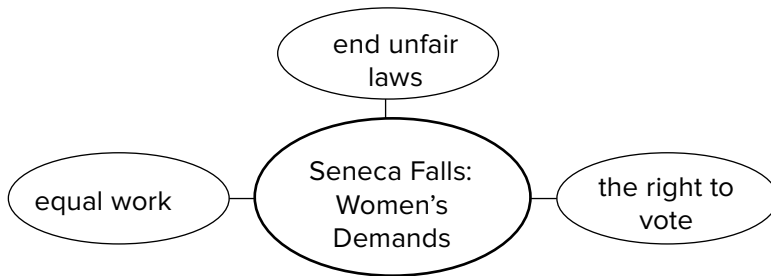


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Lesson 3 The Women’s Movement, *Continued*

Reform for Women

Many women abolitionists also worked for women’s rights. In July 1848, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton held the first women’s rights convention. It was in Seneca Falls, New York. The Seneca Falls Convention laid the foundation for the women’s rights movement.



The convention put out a statement. The statement demanded an end to laws that were unfair to women. It said women should be allowed to work in jobs and businesses where the workers were mostly men.

People at the convention also talked about **suffrage**, or the right to vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wanted the statement to say that women must have the right to vote. Lucretia Mott thought that idea was too extreme.

The abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, agreed with Stanton. He made powerful arguments about why women should be able to vote.

In the end, the convention did demand that women should have the right to vote. The statement was written in the same style as the American Declaration of Independence of 1776.

The convention at Seneca Falls was the start of a national women’s rights movement. One of the leaders of the national movement was Susan B. Anthony. She was the daughter of an abolitionist. She said women should get equal pay and should go to college. She also wanted coeducation. **Coeducation** is when males and females go to school together.

Anthony also started the country’s first women’s temperance organization. Anthony and Stanton met at a temperance meeting in 1851. They became friends, and they joined together to work for women’s rights.

Opportunities for women increased. Women got the right to vote in Wyoming in 1890. Other states followed.

Mark the Text

- Underline the text that explains the debate at the Seneca Falls Convention over women voting.

Making Connections

- Do most schools offer coeducation today? Does yours?

Reading Check

- What is *suffrage*?

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Lesson 3 The Women’s Movement, *Continued*



Categorizing

4. Match the education reformer with her school.

___ Catherine Beecher

___ Emma Willard

___ Mary Lyon

a. Troy Female Seminary

b. Milwaukee College for Women

c. Mount Holyoke Female Seminary



Mark the Text

5. Underline the text to show the progress of women in the middle to late 1800s in marriage and property laws.



Reading Check

6. What gains did women make in education?

Individual

Lucretia Mott

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Susan B. Anthony

Contribution

at Seneca Convention

at Seneca Convention; worked with Anthony on suffrage and temperance.

national leader, worked with Stanton on temperance and suffrage.

Women Make Gains

Some people wanted better education for women. Catherine Beecher thought that women should be trained for traditional roles. The Milwaukee College for Women used Beecher’s ideas. At that college, women learned to be successful wives, mothers, and homemakers.

Other people thought that women would make good teachers. Still others thought women should be trained to be leaders and have a career.

Emma Willard was one of these women. She taught herself science and mathematics. In 1821, she set up the Troy Female Seminary in New York State. There, young women learned math, history, geography, and physics. They also learned homemaking subjects.

Mary Lyon worked as a teacher for 20 years. Then she began to raise money to open a college for women. She started Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1837, in Massachusetts.

Before the mid-1800s, women did not have many rights. Anything a woman owned belonged to her husband when they got married.

In the mid- to late 1800s, women got some rights. Some states recognized the right of a woman to own her own property even after she married. Some states passed laws that gave rights to divorced women. These laws had to do with who raised the children. Several states decided to allow a woman to get a divorce if her husband drank alcohol too often.

Many careers were closed to women, however. They had to struggle to work in some professions. Two examples were medicine and the ministry. In the 1800s, women began to break through these barriers.

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Elizabeth Blackwell tried many times to get into medical school. Many schools said no. Finally, she was accepted to Geneva College in New York State. Blackwell graduated first in her class. She became a famous doctor.

Maria Mitchell also broke down walls for herself and for women after her. Maria Mitchell had been taught by her father.

- In 1847, she became the first person to discover a comet with a telescope.
- The next year, she was the first woman elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
- In 1865, Mitchell became a teacher at Vassar College.

Women had made many gains during the 1800s. There were many limits to what they could do, however. The struggle for equality continued.


Education for Women	Marriage and Family	Career
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better training for traditional roles • can be good teachers • Troy Female Seminary teaches math, history, science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women gain right to own property • divorced women gain rights in raising children • women gain right to divorce husbands who abuse alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Blackwell breaks the barrier to women in medicine

////////// Glue Foldable here //////////

Check for Understanding

List three demands made at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

List two gains that women made in the field of education.



7. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Seneca Falls 1848* on the anchor tab. Label the tabs *Cause* and *Effect*. Recall and record the reasons for the convention in 1848, and how it changed lives of women. Use the Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.