**Antebellum Reform**

Several historic reform movements began in the period, before the Civil War started in 1861, known as the *antebellum period*. During this time, a diverse mix of reformers dedicated themselves to a variety of causes. The enthusiasm for reform had multiple causes along with both immediate and long-term consequences on the United States.

The goal in this lesson is to not only identify the various reform efforts through a process of sorting and categorization, but to examine the causes and assess the effects of the antebellum reform movement.

***Directions****: Compare the following identifications to sort the terms into a minimum of FOUR specific categories. Create a word or short phrase to classify each category. Go beyond basic categories such as social, political, economic, or groups, people, and things. Be specific.*

1. American Antislavery Society
2. American Colonization Society
3. American Temperance Society
4. asylums
5. Baptists and Methodists
6. Bible Belt
7. Brook Farm
8. Charles G. Finney
9. communal societies
10. Cult of Domesticity
11. Declaration of Sentiments
12. Dorothea Dix
13. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
14. Frederick Douglass
15. Harriet Tubman
16. Henry David Thoreau
17. Herman Melville
18. Higher Education (college)
19. Horace Mann
20. Hudson River School
21. James Fenimore Cooper
22. Liberty Party
23. Lucretia Mott
24. Mormons
25. Nathaniel Hawthorne
26. “On Civil Disobedience”
27. Oneida Community
28. prison
29. Public (common) vs. Private schools
30. Ralph Waldo Emerson
31. Republican Motherhood
32. Sarah and Angelina Grimke
33. Second Great Awakening
34. Seneca Falls
35. Shakers
36. Sojourner Truth
37. Susan B. Anthony
38. Timothy Dwight
39. Transcendentalists
40. utopian communities
41. Washington Irving
42. William Lloyd Garrison

Antebellum Reform (TEACHER KEY)

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**RELIGION**

**Religious revivalism swept through the U.S. during the early 19th century partly as a reaction against rationalism associated with Enlightenment and the traditional teachings of original sin and predestination. The religious reforms resulted in new religious divisions, provided community organization and leadership represented the democratization of American society in the early years of the century.**

1. Second Great Awakening
2. Timothy Dwight
3. Charles G. Finney
4. Baptists and Methodists
5. Mormons
6. Bible Belt

**CULTURAL (Ideas, Arts, and Literature)**

**As European thinkers, artists, and writers shifted away from the concepts of balance, order, and reason they turned toward feelings, the study of nature, and heroism. The new movement of romanticism also took hold in the unique experience of America. The cultural reforms of the early 1800s challenged materialism and capitalism, called for a withdrawal from conventional society, and helped to shape a distinctive American culture.**

1. Transcendentalists
2. Ralph Waldo Emerson
3. Henry David Thoreau
4. “On Civil Disobedience”
5. Brook Farm
6. communal societies
7. utopian communities
8. Shakers
9. Oneida Community
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11. Washington Irving
12. James Fenimore Cooper
13. Nathaniel Hawthorne
14. Herman Melville

**WOMEN’S RIGHTS / FAMILY ROLES**

**Largely as a result of early industrialization and urbanization gender and family roles were redefined. Affluence, innovation, and birth control created more leisure time for women. In the antebellum period women’s rights activists worked to change the role of women in society to obtain greater agency, equality, and a political voice.**

1. Cult of Domesticity
2. Republican Motherhood
3. Sarah and Angelina Grimke
4. Lucretia Mott
5. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
6. Susan B. Anthony
7. Seneca Falls
8. Declaration of Sentiments

**MORAL REFORM / INSTITUTIONAL**

**An increase in crime, poverty, illness, and social ills in the early 19th century caused reason for concern among some who saw American morality and behavior on the decline. Moral reformers use political means and created public institutions in order to regulate behavior, provide support, and alleviate suffering in American society.**

1. American Temperance Society
2. asylums
3. Dorothea Dix
4. prison
5. Horace Mann
6. Public (common) vs. Private schools
7. Higher Education (college)

**ABOLITION**

**While supporters argued on behalf of slavery, opposition grew in an attempt to make the nation realize its founding ideals of equality, freedom, and opportunity. Abolitionists ranged from moderates who proposed gradual abolition to radicals who demanded immediate abolition without compensation. The various efforts of Abolitionists would pave the way towards the Civil War and the eventual end of slavery.**

1. American Colonization Society
2. American Antislavery Society
3. William Lloyd Garrison
4. Liberty Party
5. Frederick Douglass
6. Sojourner Truth
7. Harriet Tubman

CAUSES

* puritan mission to be a “city upon a hill”
* Enlightenment beliefs in human goodness
* Increasing democratization of the Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Eras
* Changing gender roles and relationships
* Demographic shifts / increasing diversity
* New territories and the spread of the population
* Crime, poverty, illness, social ills
* Industrialization and urbanization

BIG PICTURE CONNECTIONS

* reform efforts largely a northern and western movement towards modernization
* less so in the South who was committed to its tradition
* larger struggle to define and realize American identity, idealism, values, etc.

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT: What motivated reformers? What were the intentions of antebellum reformers?

* historical Perspectives
* Alice Tyler writing in 1944 towards the conclusion of WW II, “Freedoms Ferment” = argued that they were idealistic humanitarians with the goal of helping to create a more just and equitable society
* Others argue that reformers were mostly upper/middle class individuals/groups that hoped to control the masses and to “Americanize” the poor/immigrants/natives/ etc/

**Short Answer Question = Antebellum Reform**

1. Chose one of the Antebellum reforms listed below;
   * + Cultural (ideas, arts, and literature)
     + Antislavery
     + Religious Revivalism
     + Women’s Rights / Family Roles
     + Moral Reform
   1. Briefly explain the conditions in American society prior to the Civil War that caused the need for the type of reform your selected.
   2. Describe and explain a specific historical example from 1800 to 1860 that demonstrates the type of reform your selected.
   3. Briefly explain the effect of the specific reform you selected.