Reform Movements
1820s-1850s
Reform Movements

• A series of movements from the 1820s to the 1850s that tried to make a positive change in society.
Abolition

- **abolition** - the movement to end slavery

- Abolitionists worked in the North to convince others that slavery was wrong.
Famous Abolitionists

- William Lloyd Garrison - published abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*

- Grimke sisters - daughters of a plantation owner who turned against slavery; lectured against slavery
Former Slaves

• Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth

• Both used their experience as slaves to convince others to end slavery
Underground Railroad

- a series of above ground escape routes from the South to the North
- abolitionists would help runaway slaves escape hiding them and smuggling them into the North
- Anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 slaves traveled the underground railroad from 1830 to 1860.
Harriet Tubman

- most famous “conductor” of the underground railroad

- She was an escaped slave returned to the South 19 times to help slaves escape.

- $40,000 was offered for capture.
Women Reformers

- Many women abolitionists realized they were fighting for rights they themselves did not possess.

- Elizabeth Cady Stanton – an abolitionist who also fought for more rights for women

- Susan B. Anthony – emerged as leader of the women’s rights movement
Women’s Rights

• In the 1800s, women could not vote, sit on juries, or hold public office.

• Married women had the fewest rights since all property was managed by the husband.
Seneca Falls Convention

• A convention in 1848 that called for rights for women

• Declaration of Sentiments (based on the Dec. of Ind.) listed complaints and demanded rights
Seneca Falls Convention

• Every resolution passed the convention with a unanimous vote, except suffrage.

• suffrage - the right to vote
We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal...
Not Yet!!

- Despite their efforts...
- Slavery was not abolished until 1865
- Women did not get the right to vote until 1920.
Temperance Movement

• the campaign to stop the drinking of alcohol

• Mainly led by women (including Stanton and Anthony) because they believed alcohol was to blame for many of society’s problems.
LIPS THAT TOUCH LIQUOR SHALL NOT TOUCH OURS

The White Man's Burden
Temperance Movement

- Many states passed laws making it illegal to sell alcohol, but they were soon repealed.
Workers’ Rights

• the movement to improve working conditions, mainly in factories

• labor union - a group of workers who band together to seek better working conditions
Workers’ Rights

• Many unions used strikes - stop working until they received better conditions.

• Many workers wanted shorter hours and higher wages, but they did not achieve this for some time.
Education

• Some Americans demanded better schools.

• Horace Mann – known as the father of public education.

• Over time, schools were opened to all groups in society, including women and African-Americans.
Education, then, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men. . . .

—Horace Mann, 1848
Treatment of Prisoners and the Mentally Ill

• In the early 1800s, many people were jailed for years for two reasons:
  • Debt
  • Mental Illness
Treatment of Prisoners and the Mentally Ill

• Dorothea Dix - campaigned for reform

• By her death, many states had created special hospitals for the mentally ill.

• Also, many states stopped putting debtors in prison and stopped using cruel punishments.