

## *Reader's Guide*

An examination of the history of social reform movements in the United States reveals stunning demonstrations of courage, determination, leadership, and strength of character. Looking at this history also shows that change can be painful and difficult, whether for individuals, communities, or nations. Those agitating for change always meet with resistance from fellow citizens as well as politicians and law enforcers. They are the objects of ridicule and scorn; sometimes they are the victims of harassment and even deadly violence. They also earn considerable admiration and respect, as well as a substantial role in the history of the nation.

Social reform movements arise when a significant number of citizens organize to alter the established systems of their society: addressing social ills, changing unjust laws, achieving tolerance, easing misery. Social change does not happen overnight—securing voting rights for women, for example, required more than seventy years of activism. For most movements, the quest for change is ongoing. Such quests have led to some of the most notable instances of injustice in American history, such as National Guard troops firing into a crowd of antiwar demonstrators at Ohio's Kent State University, killing four

students; police in Selma, Alabama, beating back civil rights marchers with batons, tear gas, and electric cattle prods; and militia troops and armed guards setting fire to the tents of striking mine workers and their families in Ludlow, Colorado, killing two women, eleven children, and some twenty miners. Movements for social change have also inspired acts of quiet heroism, as when nine black children in Little Rock, Arkansas, faced down hostile white citizens and gun-carrying National Guardsmen for the right to attend a racially integrated school.

Although the history of the United States is often told as the stories of presidents elected, wars fought, and industries built, that history would not be complete without an examination of the social reform movements driven by ordinary citizens. *American Social Reform Movements: Almanac* presents an overview of the reform movements that alternately tore apart and mended the fabric of American society. The two volumes are divided into thirteen chapters, with each chapter addressing a different social movement, including antiglobalization, antiwar, civil rights, education, environment, gay rights, labor, prison reform, poverty, slavery and

abolition, temperance and Prohibition, women's rights, and women's suffrage.

## Coverage and Features

*American Social Reform Movements: Almanac* (two volumes) contains numerous sidebar boxes that highlight people and events of special interest, and each chapter offers a list of additional sources that students can go to for more information. Nearly 130 black-and-white photographs help illustrate the text. Each volume begins with a timeline of important events in the history of the United States; a "Words to Know" section that introduces students to difficult or unfamiliar terms; and a "Research and Activity Ideas" section. Each volume concludes with a general bibliography and a subject index so students can easily find the people, places, and events discussed throughout *American Social Reform Movements: Almanac*.

## American Social Reform Movements Reference Library

*American Social Reform Movements: Almanac* is only one component of the three-part U•X•L American Social Reform Movements Reference Library. The other titles in the set are:

- ***American Social Reform Movements: Biographies*** (one volume) presents the life stories of twenty-five notable activists and scholars, thinkers and writers, agitators and crusaders. Included are well-known figures such as civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X; labor organizers Eugene Debs and Mother Jones; abolitionist Frederick Douglass; women's rights pioneers Betty Friedan

and Gloria Steinem; and women's suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony and Alice Paul. This volume also includes profiles of significant but lesser-known figures, such as poverty reformer Barbara Ehrenreich, environmentalist Jared Diamond, and gay rights advocates Harry Hay and Urvashi Vaid. In addition, *Biographies* contains sixty black-and-white photographs, sidebars, a comprehensive timeline, overall "Words to Know" section, and an index.

- ***American Social Reform Movements: Primary Sources*** (one volume) tells the story of social reform movements from American history in the words of the people who lived and shaped those movements. Excerpted and full-text documents provide a wide range of perspectives on reform movements. Included are excerpts from protest literature, eyewitness accounts of significant events, memoirs and other influential books, political speeches, and manifestos. Among these items are excerpts from Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*; César Chávez's "An Open Letter to the Grape Industry"; Fannie Lou Hamer's "Testimony Before the Credentials Committee, Democratic National Convention"; Yolanda Huet-Vaughn's "Statement Refusing to Serve in the 1991 Gulf War"; Jonathan Kozol's "Still Separate, Still Unequal: America's Educational Apartheid"; Roni Krouzman's "WTO: The Battle in Seattle: An Eyewitness Account"; and Randy Shilts's *And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic*.
- A cumulative index of all three titles in the U•X•L American Social Reform Movements Reference Library is also available.

## Special Thanks

Special thanks are due to U•X•L's American Social Reform Movement Reference Library advisers:

- Maria Barlotti, Librarian, Conestoga High School, Berwyn, Pennsylvania.
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## Comments and Suggestions

We welcome your comments on *American Social Reform Movements: Almanac* and suggestions for other topics to consider. Please write: Editors, *American Social Reform Movements: Almanac*, U•X•L, 27500 Drake Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535; call toll free: 1-800-877-4253; fax to (248) 699-8097; or send e-mail via <http://www.gale.com>.

## *Words to Know*

### A

**abolition:** The act of abolishing, or getting rid of, slavery by making it illegal.

**abolitionist:** A person who works to make slavery illegal.

**abstinence:** Refraining from participation in or indulgence of certain vices or activities; in terms of the temperance movement, the avoidance of all alcoholic beverages.

**activist:** A person who campaigns vigorously for or against a political, social, or economic issue.

**AIDS:** Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; a disease related to a severely compromised immune system, leaving the body unable to defend against infection.

**anarchist:** An individual who advocates the use of force to overthrow all government.

**antiglobalization:** Opposition to the methods and practices of globalization, particularly the perceived emphasis on corporate profits over human benefits.

**antitrust laws:** Laws opposing or regulating trusts or similar business monopolies.

**antiwar:** Opposition to a specific war, to one side of a war, or to all war.

**apprentice:** Someone who is bound to work for someone else for a specific term in order to learn a trade.

**armistice:** A temporary agreement among warring nations to stop fighting and draft a formal peace agreement.

**B**

**biodiversity:** The diversity of plant and animal species within an ecosystem; also refers to diversity within a species or diversity among a number of different species.

**bisexual:** A person who is romantically and physically attracted to both men and women.

**black nationalism:** An ideology held among militant groups of American blacks that called for the formation of self-governing black communities that were separate from those of whites.

**blacklist:** A list of employees involved in union activity that was sent to employers to warn them against hiring those people, effectively preventing those workers fired for unionism from getting another job.

**blind pig/blind tiger:** An establishment where alcohol is illegally sold.

**bootlegger:** A person who makes, sells, or transports alcohol illegally.

**boycott:** A refusal to do business with a certain company as a form of protest; often takes the form of employees refusing to work or encouraging consumers to stop buying their employers' products.

**C**

**capital:** Assets, including money or property, used to create further wealth through investment or the production of goods and services.

**capitalism:** An economic system in which the companies that produce goods or provide services are owned privately by individuals or groups of people. Owners have invested funds, or capital, in a business and earn profits when the business succeeds.

**civil disobedience:** The purposeful and usually peaceful violation of laws or rules that are considered unfair or morally wrong.

**civil rights:** Personal rights guaranteed by law to all citizens.

**civil union:** A legally recognized marriage-like relationship, often between two people of the same sex, that offers many of the same legal rights and benefits of marriage.

**civil war:** A war fought by different groups within a country rather than among many countries; the American Civil War (1861–65) was fought between the northern (Union) and southern (Confederate) states.

**collective bargaining:** The process of negotiating a contract between an employer and the union that represents the employees.

**coming out:** The act of revealing to others one's previously hidden sexual orientation.

**common school:** A public school, free and available to all children; term used during the nineteenth century.

**communism:** A political system in which most aspects of social and economic life are dictated by the government. Under communism, all property is owned by the government and, theoretically, wealth is distributed evenly throughout society.

**conscientious objector:** A person refusing to serve in the military because it violates his or her conscience; term often used to describe those whose religious beliefs prevent any endorsement of war.

**conservation:** The protection and managed use of natural resources and wilderness areas.

**conservatism:** A political ideology based on the concept of a limited federal government, one that protects individual's freedoms by maintaining domestic order, providing for national defense, and administering justice. This ideology is generally opposed to the use of federal powers for the protection or preservation of civil rights.

**convict:** A person convicted, or found guilty, of a crime; term usually reserved for those serving time in prison.

**cross-dresser:** A person who wears clothing typical of the opposite sex; also described as "transvestite."

**currency:** Any form of money, generally either coins or paper bills, issued by a government or a bank and used in legal exchanges.

## D

**dame schools:** Schools conducted by women in their homes during the American colonial era; also known as "petty schools."

**depression:** A severe economic downturn usually characterized by high unemployment.

**desegregation:** The act of eliminating laws or provisions that force segregation, which is the legal separation of people of different races or ethnic groups.

**determinate sentence:** A prison sentence given for an exact time period as opposed to a range of months or years.

**direct assistance:** Cash payments made to welfare recipients; other types of welfare include subsidized housing, paid for in part by the government, or vouchers to be used to buy food or pay for rent.

**discrimination:** Unfair treatment of a group of people based on prejudice, a negative opinion formed without justification.

**disenfranchise:** To deprive a group or person of the right to vote.

**domestic:** Within the borders of one's own country, as opposed to "foreign."

**dove:** A person who favors diplomacy and negotiation and generally objects to war as a method of resolving conflict between nations.

**draft (selective service):** A system by which persons are chosen for mandatory service in a nation's military.

**draft dodgers:** Persons who hide in or flee from a country in order to avoid mandatory military service.

## E

**ecology:** The study of the relationship between an organism and the entirety of its surroundings.

**ecosystem:** A community of plants and animals that live in balance with one another.

**Emancipation Proclamation:** An order of President Abraham Lincoln freeing the slaves in the southern states that had not remained loyal to the Union and that were not under Union control.

**environment:** The surroundings of a living being that affect that being's health and survival.

**ERA:** The Equal Rights Amendment; a proposed constitutional amendment that would have mandated equal treatment under the law regardless of gender.

**executive order:** A statement written and issued by the president that uses some part of an existing law or the U.S. Constitution to enforce an action.

**export:** Goods or services sent out of one country for trade or sale in another country.

**extinction:** The state of a species that has died out.

**F**

**felony:** A serious crime, including armed robbery, arson, or murder; usually punishable by a sentence of a year or more in prison.

**feminism:** The theory that women should have economic, political, and social rights equal to those of men.

**food chain:** Sequence in which one organism is the food source for the next organism, which is the food source for the next organism in the chain; for example, grass-rabbit-fox.

**foreign:** Relating to another country, as opposed to “domestic.”

**fossil fuels:** Energy sources that were formed hundreds of millions of years ago from the fossilized remains of plants and animals.

**franchise:** The right to vote.

**free blacks:** African Americans who had never been slaves, or who had escaped from slavery by fleeing to the North.

**free-market economy:** An economic system in which goods and services are privately owned and sold to anyone wishing to buy them at whatever price can be obtained. Prices are set by the principle of supply and demand and are affected by competition.

**free trade:** The international exchange of goods and services without any barriers, such as tariffs or trade quotas.

**Freedmen’s Bureau:** An organization formed by the U.S. Congress to aid former slaves after the American Civil War.

**furlough:** A temporary leave from prison granted to model inmates as a tool for helping them re-enter free society.

**G**

**gay:** A man who is romantically and physically attracted to other men; term also sometimes refers to the broader gay community, including lesbians and bisexuals.

**gender:** Either the male or female sex; term also implies a set of traits typically associated with that sex.

**general strike:** A work stoppage by all organized workers—working in various industries—in a city, region, or entire country; usually a form of protest designed to halt or greatly disrupt the normal functioning of the area in question.

**global warming:** Theory that an increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, resulting from pollution, has begun to cause a warming of Earth's climate.

**globalization:** The exchange of goods, services, and capital across national borders.

**grassroots organization:** A group or network of local citizens; term suggests a rejection of a hierarchical structure with a centralized leadership.

## H

**habitat:** The natural environment of an animal or a plant.

**halfway house:** A transitional place where inmates can live after leaving prison but before living on their own; offers counseling and supervision.

**hawk:** A person who supports aggressive foreign policies, including declarations of war.

**heterosexual:** A person who is romantically and physically attracted to people of the opposite sex.

**hierarchy:** The classification of people into ranks indicating authority, with the leader at the top.

**HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus; the virus that causes AIDS.

**homosexual:** A person who is romantically and physically attracted to people of the same sex.

## I

**imperialism:** The practice of one nation taking control of another's government or economy through invasion or other means.

**import:** Goods or services brought from one country into another for sale.

**incarceration:** Imprisonment.

**indeterminate sentence:** A sentence covering a range of time, such as fifteen years to life; prisoners can be granted parole after the minimum sentence has been met.

**industrial union:** A union that represents all workers, skilled and unskilled, in a particular workplace.

**industrialism:** The social system that results from an economy based on large-scale industries.

**industrialists:** People who engage in profit-making enterprises that manufacture a certain product, such as textiles or steel.

**industrialization:** The development of industry.

**Industrial Revolution:** A period of rapid industrial growth causing a shift in focus from agriculture to industry beginning in the late eighteenth century and continuing through the nineteenth century. During this time, new manufacturing technologies and improved transportation gave rise to the modern factory system and a massive movement of the population from the countryside to the cities.

**injunction:** A court order that either prohibits an action (such as a strike) or forces action to be taken (such as striking workers returning to work).

**inmate:** A person serving a sentence in a jail or prison.

**integration:** The mixing together of racial, cultural, or religious groups that had formerly been separated; integration implies that the groups will be on equal social footing.

## J

**jail:** An institution where people are confined for short sentences or while awaiting sentencing; term is sometimes used interchangeably with “prison.”

**Jim Crow:** A set of laws, customs, and regulations in the American South that separated blacks from whites to ensure that blacks were kept on a lower social footing; “Jim Crow” also describes the time period during which such laws were common, from the Reconstruction era until the mid-1960s.

**just war doctrine:** The principle, with a basis in New Testament teachings, that outlines the conditions under which a just, or fair, war might be fought, as when a nation has been attacked and all non-violent attempts to resolve the conflict have failed.

**K**

**Ku Klux Klan (KKK):** The most prominent of several white supremacist groups that used violence—in the form of beatings, whippings, murder, rape, and arson—to control blacks and their sympathizers through fear and intimidation.

**L**

**labor union:** An organization of workers formed to protect and further their mutual interests by bargaining as a group with their employers over wages, working conditions, and benefits.

**leftist:** A person promoting radical or socialistic politics in the form of liberal reform or revolutionary change.

**lesbian:** A woman who is romantically and physically attracted to other women.

**liberalism:** A political ideology based on the concept of a federal government that protects an individual's freedoms by maintaining domestic order, providing for national defense, and administering justice, but also protects and preserves the civil rights of citizens by maintaining programs to aid certain social groups.

**loom:** A frame or machine used to weave thread or yarn into cloth.

**lynching:** The murder of an individual, most commonly a black American, by a mob of white Americans, with no legal authority, usually by hanging.

**M**

**male chauvinism:** The expression or attitude of a man indicating a belief in the superiority of men over women.

**Middle Passage:** The trip across the Atlantic made by slaves captured in Africa; the Middle Passage came between the slaves' forcible removal from their homes and their being sold as property to slave owners in the United States.

**migrant workers:** Laborers who travel from place to place to harvest crops for various farmers as the crops mature through the seasons.

**minimum wage:** The lowest rate of pay that an employer is allowed to pay employees, as decided either by law or by a negotiated contract.

**misdemeanor:** A minor crime, such as petty theft, punishable by a fine or a prison term of less than one year.

**monopoly:** The exclusive possession or right to produce a particular good or service.

**moonshine:** Illegally distilled alcohol, usually whiskey.

**muckrakers:** Journalists who search for and expose corruption in public affairs.

## N

**naturalist:** A person who studies nature or natural history.

**New Deal:** A set of legislative programs and policies for economic recovery and social reform initiated in the 1930s during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

**nonviolence:** The deliberate avoidance of violence during demonstrations or protests designed to change a law or custom.

## O

**oppression:** The act of using power in an unjust and cruel way; also the state of being weighed down by an unjust authority.

**organized crime:** A specialized form of crime carried out by loosely or rigidly structured networks of gangs with certain territorial boundaries.

**ozone:** A form of oxygen; forms a layer in the stratosphere that filters out harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

## P

**pacifism:** An opposition to war or violence; the pursuit of peaceful resolution to all conflicts.

**parochial school:** A privately funded religious school.

**parole:** A release from prison allowing the inmate to serve the remainder of the sentence outside the prison, living according to the prison's rules and restrictions.

**patriarchy:** A society or organization in which men possess most of the control and authority.

**penitentiary:** A prison, generally reserved for serious offenders; originally referred to an institution where inmates would seek to show penitence, or regret, for their crimes. In the U.S. federal prison system, a penitentiary is a maximum-security facility.

**pension:** A fixed sum paid regularly, usually as a retirement benefit.

**picket line:** A group of striking workers marching at the entrance of their workplace to inform fellow employees and the general public of a labor dispute and to influence others not to enter the workplace.

**poverty:** The condition of one who lacks money, resources, and material goods.

**prejudice:** A negative opinion or attitude about a person, race, or group of people that is not based on fact or one's experiences with such people or groups. Instead, such opinions are based on unfounded ideas about how that person, race, or group might be or act.

**preservation:** Safeguarding an area of the natural world from undue human interference.

**prison:** A correctional institution designed to confine those convicted of a serious crime; term sometimes used interchangeably with "jail."

**private school:** A school controlled by private agencies and funded through private means, including student tuition and donations, rather than by the government.

**probation:** An alternative to a prison sentence whereby the convicted person remains free but has to abide by a set of restrictions and submit to supervision for a period of time.

**Prohibition:** The period from 1920 to 1933 when the government outlawed the manufacture, sale, and transport of alcoholic beverages.

**protectionism:** Policies designed to erect trade barriers, such as tariffs, to protect domestic companies from foreign competition.

**protest:** An organized public demonstration of discontent with the governance of or social circumstances within a society.

**public school:** A school supported by taxes, free and available to all students, and run by an elected school board.

## Q

**Quaker:** A member of the Religious Society of Friends, a religion that supports equality between the sexes and promotes peace and tolerance in its teachings.

**quota:** A limit placed on the quantity of certain goods to be imported from a particular country.

## R

**racist:** A person who discriminates or is prejudiced against a group based on that group's race; racism is based on the notion that one race is naturally superior to another because of genetic makeup.

**radical:** Someone who supports an extreme political cause.

**recidivism:** The repetition of criminal behavior; term usually refers to an ex-convict committing additional crimes after being released from prison.

**Reconstruction:** The period from the end of the American Civil War in 1865 until 1877, when newly freed slaves were given protections under the law including the right to citizenship, the right to vote, and the right to hold political office.

**rumrunner:** A person who illegally smuggles liquor across a waterway or a land border.

## S

**secondary school:** A school attended between elementary school and college.

**secular:** Not religious.

**sedition:** Actions that encourage resistance of or rebellion against a governing body.

**segregation:** The separation and isolation of a racial or ethnic group in schools or other facilities.

**settlement houses:** Places established and run by educated, and often wealthy, reformers to provide social and educational services to the residents of poor urban immigrant communities.

**sex:** Gender classification, either male or female.

**sexism:** Discrimination based on sex; usually refers to discrimination against women.

**sexual harassment:** Sexually suggestive speech or physical contact directed at a person, usually by a figure of authority—for example, an employer or teacher.

**sharecropper:** A tenant farmer who works the land for an agreed share of the value of the crop, minus the deductions taken out of his share for his rent, supplies, and living costs.

**sit-down strike:** A refusal to work conducted by laborers who stay at their workstations and block employers from replacing them with other workers.

**sit-in:** A nonviolent form of protest popular during the civil rights movement that involved black and sometimes white activists occupying seats in a segregated establishment, like a restaurant, and refusing to leave until all were served.

**slavery:** A system in which a human being is considered the property of another and is forced to work for the “owner” without pay and often under brutal conditions.

**social services:** A range of services, often provided by the government, that promote the well-being of disadvantaged or disabled citizens; can include health clinics, counseling, job training, and the like.

**social welfare:** Private or government efforts to help disadvantaged or disabled individuals.

**socialism:** An economic system in which the means of producing goods and providing services are owned by the community rather than by private individuals or corporations; all members of the community share in the work and wealth is distributed equally.

**speakeasy:** An establishment where alcohol is illegally sold.

**species:** Related organisms that are capable of breeding with one another.

**straight:** An informal term for a person who is heterosexual, or attracted to members of the opposite sex.

**stock market:** A system for trade in companies, ventures, and other investments through the buying and selling of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, limited partnerships, and other securities.

**strike:** A refusal by employees to work, in an attempt to gain concessions from their employer, including increased wages, safer working conditions, better job security, and the recognition of the employees' union.

**strikebreakers:** Workers hired to replace striking employees; strikebreakers allow business to be continued without interruption, thereby defeating the purpose of the strike. Also referred to as replacement workers or, in a derogatory sense, as scabs.

**suffrage:** The right to vote.

**suffragette:** A woman who supports the right of women to vote; the term was often used in a negative, belittling way by opponents of women's suffrage.

**suffragist:** A person who promotes the right to vote; the term is used particularly in regard to a person supporting the right of women to vote.

**sweatshop:** A factory in which workers labor for long hours in poor conditions for very low wages.

## T

**tariff:** A tax placed on goods imported from another country; tariffs raise the prices of imported goods, making it more difficult for such items to compete with domestically produced goods.

**teetotaler:** A person who abstains from all alcoholic beverages.

**temperance:** Moderation in the drinking of alcoholic beverages; in the context of the temperance movement, it usually refers to the complete avoidance of alcohol.

**tenant farmer:** Someone who farms land owned by someone else and pays rent or a share of the crop for the use of the land.

**tenement:** Urban dwellings rented by impoverished families that barely meet or fail to meet the minimum standards of safety, sanitation, and comfort.

**trade agreement:** An agreement among two or more nations that establishes terms for exchanging goods and services in a manner beneficial to all parties.

**transgendered individuals:** A range of people, including transsexuals and cross-dressers, who express their gender in ways that differ from conventional expectations.

**transsexual:** A person who has changed his or her biological gender through sex reassignment surgery and/or hormone treatment.

**transvestite:** A person who wears the clothing and, often, adopts the manner of the opposite sex.

**treaty:** A formal agreement between nations.

**trusts:** A group of companies, joined for the purpose of reducing competition and controlling prices.

## U

**Underground Railroad:** A network of people in the mid-1800s secretly helping slaves to escape to the northern United States or Canada and assisting them in establishing new lives there.

**union:** An organization of workers designed to negotiate with employers for workers' rights and to secure improvements in such areas as wages, working hours, benefits, and workplace safety.

## W

**Wall Street:** Financial district and home of the nation's major stock exchanges in New York City.

**War on Poverty:** The central program of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society." This effort tried to end poverty by providing poor Americans with education, job training, food, housing, and money.

**welfare:** Government-funded help for the needy, in the form of money, supplies, and services.

**work release:** A program allowing certain convicts the option of working outside the prison during the day and returning to their cells at night.

**workhouse:** A facility, often run by a church, designed to provide jobs for the poor and unemployed; term also describes a prison housing minor criminals.

## *Research and Activity Ideas*

The following research and activity ideas are intended to offer suggestions for complementing social studies and history curricula; to trigger additional ideas for enhancing learning; and to provide cross-disciplinary projects for library and classroom use.

**The Antiglobalization Movement:** Antiglobalization activists contend that they do not oppose the idea of globalization; they simply object to the current methods and practices associated with global trade. Pretend that you have traveled one hundred years into the future and write a description of the impact of globalization on the world in the twenty-second century. Assess the status of the antiglobalization movement's primary concerns, including poverty in developing nations, workers' rights, environmental issues, and intellectual property rights.

**The Antiwar Movement:** In the United States, every military conflict has had its detractors, people opposed to war in general or to a specific war for specific reasons. Assume the role of a conscientious objector, someone who refuses military participation, regarding two of the following conflicts: World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, and the war in Iraq. In reference to each of the two wars you choose, write a short paragraph explaining why you refused to serve and a short paragraph outlining the consequences of your decision: Did you go to jail? How did your friends and family react?

**The Civil Rights Movement:** The 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* was a landmark decision that outlawed segregation in public schools. Pretend that you are a lawyer arguing on behalf of African American students and write an essay

describing the unfairness of the “separate but equal” doctrine and the importance of integration.

**Education Reform:** The Progressive Era, covering the first three decades of the 1900s, marked a period of substantial educational reform. Pretend you are implementing a new, progressive school program in the early 1900s, a program along the lines of those advocated by John Dewey and Francis W. Parker. Create a poster advertising your program, using text and pictures to demonstrate what your school will be like and what you hope to accomplish. Bear in mind that most classrooms at that time were run by strict, authoritarian teachers who emphasized memorization and discipline over creativity and self-expression. Make it clear in your poster that your program is a radical departure from that method.

**The Environmental Movement:** Create a brochure for people in your community outlining ten steps citizens can take to “save the Earth”: reducing waste or pollution, protecting wildlife and habitats, conserving energy, recycling, and the like. Use illustrations to enhance the text.

**The Gay Rights Movement:** Assume the role of a journalist who witnessed the riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City during the summer of 1969. Write an article about the event from the perspective of one year later. Capture the sense of chaos and fear during the riots but also the joy the protesters felt over their strength in numbers. Assess the impact of Stonewall in the months following, describing the development of the gay rights movement that came in the wake of that incident.

**The Labor Movement:** The labor movement has a long, conflict-ridden, and sometimes bloody history, including such major clashes between labor and management as the incident at Haymarket Square (1886), the Homestead strike (1892), the Pullman strike (1894), the Ludlow massacre (1914), and the General Motors strike (1936–37). Choose one of these events and write an eyewitness report for a newspaper. Include background information, the reasons for the strike, the actions of the workers (and their families if they became involved), and the response of management.

**Poverty Reform:** Imagine that you are the president of the United States, and the nation has fallen into an economic depression. Examine the programs begun by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression of the 1930s as well as the “war on poverty,” President Lyndon B. Johnson’s effort during the 1960s. What programs would you implement to reduce unemployment, provide relief for the poor, and

get the nation's economy back on track? Write a brief description of your ideas.

**Prison Reform:** One of the central issues throughout the history of prison reform has centered on the severity of punishment for those convicted of crimes. Some reformers have advocated a progressive approach to imprisonment, advocating shorter sentences and improved educational and job-training opportunities for inmates. Others have taken a more conservative approach, claiming that prison should be a miserable experience both to punish convicted criminals and to deter others from committing crimes. Conduct a debate among classmates, with one group arguing for prison as an institution of reform and the other promoting prison as an instrument for punishment and retribution.

**Slavery and Abolition:** Write a short story about a family that decides to become part of the Underground Railroad, a network of people who secretly helped slaves escape from the slave-owning southern states to the northern United States and to Canada. Explore the reasons behind the family's decision and the risks they take to help escaping slaves. Also address the courage and determination displayed by the fleeing slaves.

**The Temperance Movement and Prohibition:** With classmates, stage a town meeting, circa 1918, and conduct a debate between the two sides of the temperance movement: the "drys," who support abstinence from and a complete ban on alcoholic beverages; and the "wets," who believe it should be legal to produce and sell alcohol.

**The Women's Rights Movement:** With a group of classmates, create an early-1970s-era magazine demonstrating the beliefs and opinions of the women's movement. Write articles, poetry, and short stories, and use photographs and illustrations to complement the text.

**The Women's Suffrage Movement:** Research the differing approaches of two important leaders in the women's suffrage movement: Carrie Chapman Catt and Alice Paul. Catt's Winning Plan involved a state-by-state campaign of lobbying lawmakers to give women the right to vote. Paul's more confrontational approach involved the staging of demonstrations and protests to bring about the passage of a federal amendment guaranteeing women's voting rights. Explain which method you believe was most effective and why. Also, consider the possibility that both approaches were necessary to achieve change.