**Women’s Suffrage Homework pt. 1**

Read the following summary over the women’s suffrage movement and answer the questions that follow.

*The Suffrage Movement*

The first women’s rights convention met in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848.It was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. They believed that the top priority of the convention should be getting women the right to vote. The movement for gaining voting rights became known as the suffrage movement. **Suffrage** is the right to vote. Many progressives joined the woman suffrage movement.

When Congress introduced the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution to protect voting rights of African Americans, some suffragists wanted the amendments worded to also give women the right to vote. The Republicans refused to do so. The debate over the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments split the suffrage movement. One group, the National Woman Suffrage Association, was led by Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

This group wanted Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage. The other group, the American Woman Suffrage Association, was led by Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe. This group believed that the best strategy was to convince state governments to give women the right to vote. The split made the movement less effective.

In 1890 the two groups joined to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The organization had a slow start, partly because it was difficult to convince many women to become politically active.

However, many women realized that they needed to have the right to vote to push for social reforms that they wanted passed. Many working-class women wanted the vote to push for labor laws that would protect women.

The suffrage movement began lobbying lawmakers and organizing marches. Alice Paul, who headed NAWSA’s congressional committee, had organized a march in Washington, D.C. She wanted the march to push President Wilson to act on behalf of suffrage. Some people in NAWSA who wanted to work with the president opposed Paul’s actions. Paul then left NAWSA and formed the National Woman’s Party. Carrie Chapman Catt became NAWSA’s leader in 1915. She threw the organization’s support behind Wilson in the 1916 presidential election. Although Wilson did not support a suffrage amendment, he supported the call for states to grant women the right to vote. As more people pushed for woman suffrage, Congress began to support a constitutional amendment. Finally, in June 1919, the Senate passed the Nineteenth Amendment. It was ratified by the states in 1920.

How did the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association differ regarding gaining suffrage for women?

**Women’s Suffrage homework pt.2**

The excerpt below is from the Declaration of Sentiments, written at the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848. Read the excerpt and then answer the questions that follow.

*The Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls Conference, 1848 (Modified)*

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, two American activists in the movement to abolish slavery organized the first conference to address Women's rights and issues in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. The Declaration of the Seneca Falls Convention was signed by sixty-eight women and thirty-two men.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . . . Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance (loyalty) to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government. . . . The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations (taking away power) on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her.

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise (right to vote).

He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

He becomes, in marriage, for all intents and purposes, her master--the law giving him power to deprive her of her liberty, and to administer punishment.

He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction which he considers most honorable to himself. As a teacher of religion, medicine, or law, she is not known.

He has given to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies (crimes) which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated, but deemed of insignificant in man.

He has endeavored, in every way that he could, to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead dependent and abject life.

Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, --in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States.

*Source: Declaration of Sentiments, written in 1848 by Elizabeth Cady Stanton.*

Why did the women at Seneca Falls choose to copy the Declaration of Independence?

What were 3 things they complained about?

Are you surprised by any of the grievances?

Do any of the grievances seem like they’re still true today?