

New Movements in America

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Second Great Awakening sparked interest in religion.
2. Social reformers began to speak out about temperance and prison reform.
3. Improvements in education reform affected many parts of the population.
4. Northern African American communities became involved in reform efforts.

Key Terms and People

Second Great Awakening late 1700s-early 1800s movement of Christian renewal

Charles Grandison Finney minister who challenged some traditional beliefs

temperance movement movement to encourage people not to drink alcohol

Lyman Beecher minister who spoke against both Charles Grandison Finney and alcohol consumption

Dorothea Dix prison reformer

common-school movement movement to have all children, regardless of background, taught in a common place

Horace Mann education reformer

Catherine Beecher founder of all-female academy in Hartford, Connecticut

Thomas Gallaudet education reformer for the hearing impaired

Section Summary

SECOND GREAT AWAKENING

During the 1790s, a period of Christian renewal began. It was known as the **Second Great Awakening**. By the 1830s, it had swept through New England, the Appalachians, and the South.

Charles Grandison Finney was one of the leaders of the Second Great Awakening. Some did not agree with Finney's message. However, the Constitution's First Amendment guaranteed Finney's right to speak and be heard. Through the efforts of Finney and other ministers, many Americans joined churches across the country.

What can you infer from the fact that this period was called the Second Great Awakening?

Section 3, *continued***SOCIAL REFORMERS SPEAK OUT**

In the spirit of the Second Great Awakening, people tried to reform many of society's ills. In the **temperance movement**, people aimed at limiting alcohol consumption. **Lyman Beecher** and other ministers spoke about the evils of alcohol.

Another reformer, **Dorothea Dix**, reported on the terrible conditions she found when she visited some Massachusetts prisons. Imprisoned along with adult criminals were the mentally ill and children. Because of efforts by Dix and others, governments built hospitals for the mentally ill and reform schools for young lawbreakers. They also began to try to reform—not just punish—prisoners.

How did prisons change as a result of reformers like Dorothea Dix?

IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

Education in the early 1800s improved with the **common-school movement**. This movement, led by **Horace Mann**, worked to have all students, regardless of background, taught in the same place. Women's education also improved at this time. Several women's schools, including **Catherine Beecher's** all-female academy in Connecticut, opened. Teaching people with disabilities improved, too. For example, **Thomas Gallaudet** bettered the education of the hearing impaired.

What was the common-school movement?

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

In this period, life improved for the nation's free black population. The Free Africans Religious Society, founded by Richard Allen, pressed for equality and education. Leaders such as Alexander Crummel helped build African American schools in New York, Philadelphia, and other cities. In 1835 Oberlin College became the first college to admit African Americans. Soon after, in the 1840s, several African American colleges were founded.

Circle the names of all the reformers who worked to better America during this time.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Compare and Contrast What did Horace Mann, Catherine Beecher, Thomas Gallaudet, and Richard Allen all have in common?

Section 3, *continued*

Catharine Beecher	Lyman Beecher	common-school movement
Dorothea Dix	Charles Grandison Finney	Thomas Gallaudet
Horace Mann	Second Great Awakening	temperance movement

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

_____ 1. Thomas Gallaudet bettered the education and lives of people with hearing impairments.

_____ 2. An all-female academy in Connecticut was started by Dorothea Dix.

_____ 3. Lyman Beecher was a leader of the common-school movement.

_____ 4. People in the common-school movement wanted all children taught in a common place, regardless of background.

_____ 5. Catharine Beecher was a middle-class reformer who helped change the American prison system.

_____ 6. Minister Horace Mann spoke widely about the evils of alcohol.

_____ 7. A social reform effort that urged people to use self-discipline to stop drinking hard liquor was called the temperance movement.

_____ 8. Charles Grandison Finney was one of the most important leaders of the Second Great Awakening.
