

**New Movements in America****Section 5****MAIN IDEAS**

1. Influenced by the abolition movement, many women struggled to gain equal rights for themselves.
2. Calls for women's rights met opposition from men and women.
3. The Seneca Falls Convention launched the first organized women's rights movement in the United States.

**Key Terms and People**

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** supporter of women's rights who helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention

**Lucretia Mott** women's rights supporter who helped organize the Seneca Falls Convention

**Seneca Falls Convention** the first organized public meeting about women's rights held in the United States

**Declaration of Sentiments** the document officially requesting equal rights for women

**Lucy Stone** spokesperson for the Anti-Slavery Society and the women's rights movement

**Susan B. Anthony** women's rights supporter who argued for equal pay for equal work, the right of women to enter traditionally male professions, and property rights

**Section Summary****WOMEN'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**

In the mid-1800s, some female abolitionists also began to focus on the women's rights in America, despite their many critics. For example, the Grimké sisters were criticized for speaking in public. Their critics felt they should stay at home. Sarah Grimké responded by writing a pamphlet in support of women's rights. She also argued for equal educational opportunities, as well as for laws that treated women in an equal manner.

Abolitionist Sojourner Truth also became a women's-rights supporter. The ex-slave never learned to read or write, but she became a great and influential speaker.

**Why did critics of the Grimké sisters think women should not speak in public?**

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**OPPOSING THE CALL FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

The women's movement had many critics—both men and women. Some felt a woman should stay home. Others felt women were not as physically or mentally strong as men. Therefore, they needed the protection of first their fathers, then their husbands. This was why upon marriage, husbands took control of their wives' property.

**What arguments did critics use against women's rights?**

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**SENECA FALLS CONVENTION**

With the support of leaders like **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Lucretia Mott**, the **Seneca Falls Convention** opened July 19, 1848, in Seneca Falls, New York. It was the first time American women organized to promote women's rights. It resulted in the **Declaration of Sentiments**. This document officially requested equality for women. It brought 18 charges against men, much as the Declaration of Independence had brought 18 charges against King George III.

**Why was the Seneca Falls Convention important?**

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After the convention, more women rose to lead the fight for rights. **Lucy Stone**, for example, was another abolitionist who spoke out for women's rights. So did **Susan B. Anthony**. Anthony argued that women should be paid the same as men for the same job, and that women could do the jobs reserved for men. Anthony also fought for property rights for women. Many states changed their property laws because of her efforts. But some rights, such as the right to vote, were not won until much later.

**Why do you think most of the leaders in the women's rights movement were women?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Identify the women you think had the greatest impact on women's rights. Write a sentence or two explaining your choice.

**Section 5, *continued***

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**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ brought strong organizational skills to the women's rights movement. (Lucy Stone/Susan B. Anthony)
2. A well-known spokesperson for the Anti-Slavery Society who took up the cause of women's rights was \_\_\_\_\_. (Lucy Stone/Susan B. Anthony)
3. A powerful speaker for both abolition and women's rights was \_\_\_\_\_, who had been born into slavery. (Sojourner Truth/Lucy Stone)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to change the idea that women were not equal to men and helped organize a convention to discuss women's rights. (Sojourner Truth/Lucretia Mott)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ went to the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in England but was not allowed to participate because she was a woman. (Elizabeth Cady Stanton/Lucretia Mott)
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a public meeting organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott to discuss women's rights. (Seneca Falls Convention/Declaration of Sentiments)
7. Convention organizers wrote a document called the \_\_\_\_\_ that detailed their beliefs about social injustice toward women. (Seneca Falls Convention/Declaration of Sentiments)
8. Several men, including \_\_\_\_\_, attended the Seneca Falls Convention. (T.S. Arthur/Frederick Douglass)
9. \_\_\_\_\_ never married, saying that the laws of the day gave husbands too much power over their wives. (Sojourner Truth/Sarah Grimké)
10. \_\_\_\_\_ collected more than 6,000 signatures on a petition that eventually led to the state of New York passing a law that allowed married women ownership of their wages and property. (Lucy Stone/Susan B. Anthony)