Reformers Dossiers

Ideas: include thumb drive with audio/video files in some packets, add "real" objects like Luther's burned Papal Bull, photo of torture instruments for Torquemada, etc.

How to:

- 6 "packets" with copies of one dossier in each packet. Give one to each group and give them 5 minutes to review that one document. Then, pass to the next group until all 6 are examined.
- Complete the final analysis sheet.

Frederick Douglas*

John Brown (more?)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton*

Susan B. Anthony

Beecher Stowe

William Lloyd Garrison

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Name: Frederick Douglass

Born: 1818

Actions

-Physically attacked his slave master after months of beatings. He was not beaten again.

- Secretly taught himself to read and write saying "knowledge is the pathway from slav[illegible]freedom."

- Escaped slavery and became a vocal opponent of it while living in the North, including writing an autobiography, *Narrative of a Life of a Slave,* which became a best-seller.

- Attended Seneca Falls Convention on women's rights and spoke forcefully in favor of the demands of the women.

-If not for his vocal support it is unlikely the *Declaration of Sentiments*, a document outlining the rights women should have, would have been approved by the convention.

-Despite his support for women's rights he later argued that voting rights for black men were more important. He argued that women had some voice as long as their husbands could vote since they could influence them. Black men had no such influence.

-Refused an invitation by John Brown to join an assault against southern slave owners.

- Through his powerful speeches and writings he helped prove that slaves were intelligent enough to be free to run their own lives.

-Became the most popular speaker on a 6-month tour of abolitionist speakers in the north.

-Wrote a letter to his former slave master asking him how he would feel if Douglass kidnapped his daughter and treated her like he had treated Douglass' family.

-Created his own newspaper where he wrote about issues involving abolition and women's rights.

Testimony

I have often been asked, how I felt when first I found myself on free soil. And my readers may share the same curiosity. There is scarcely anything in my experience about which I could not give a more satisfactory answer. A new world had opened upon me. If life is more than breath, and the 'quick round

of blood,' I lived more in one day than in a year of my slave life. It was a time of joyous excitement which words can but tamely describe. – Frederick Douglass



Name: John Brown

Born: 1800

Actions

- Attended a mostly African-American church at a time when, even in the north, did not usually mix in public.

- Formed a militant group dedicated to protecting escaped slaves from being recaptured.

-Gave many anti-slavery speeches, often with a tone of war-like defiance. He argued that peaceful protest would never lead to the end of slavery.

- Led an anti-slavery vigilante group in Kansas. They captured 5 pro-slavery men, took them out and hacked them to death with swords. Those killed had been former slave hunters and Brown had feared they were coming after his family.

- Led an assault on a U.S. armory in Virginia. His plan was to capture it and distribute its weapons to the slaves in the south to start a rebellion against their slave masters.

- When surrounded by marines and given a chance to surrender he said “No. I prefer to die here.” He was captured and put on trial.

- He had a chance to escape prison but said he’d rather die as a martyr for the abolitionist cause then run for the rest of his life.

- He was executed for his crimes. Many in the North saw him as a hero.

Testimony

Here, before God, in the presence of these witnesses, from this time, I consecrate my life to the destruction of slavery!" - John Brown

I believe that to interfere as I have done as I have always freely admitted I have done in behalf of [God’s] despised poor, was not wrong, but right. – John Brown

Name: Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Born: November 12, 1815



Actions

-Attended abolitionist meetings and argued against slavery

-Pushed for the banning of alcohol in the United States.

-Organized Seneca Falls Convention on Women's Rights

-Primary author of the Declaration of Sentiments (a document listing all that men had [illegible] women back and the rights all women should have, primarily the right to vote.)

-Argued not only for voting rights for women but also for property rights, custody rights in the case of divorce, and employment rights – which other reformers did not always support.

-Though she was against slavery she refused to support voting rights for black men until voting rights for white and black women were also included.

-Her fear was that if even more men were allowed to vote then women would never get the votes needed to earn their own rights.

-Wrote a petition for universal voting rights for all no matter race or gender in 1866 – it didn't do much.

-Once argued that a woman should be able to get a divorce if her husband was a regular drunk.

-Later in life she wrote some of the most influential books, documents, and speeches of the women's rights movement.

Testimony

""The general discontent I felt with woman's portion as wife, housekeeper, physician, and spiritual guide, the chaotic conditions into which everything fell without her constant supervision, and the wearied, anxious look of the majority of women, impressed me with a strong feeling that some active measures should be taken to remedy the wrongs of society in general, and of women in particular. I could not see what to do or where to begin—my only thought was a public meeting for protest and discussion."– Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Name: Susan B. Anthony

Born: 1820

Actions

- Started collecting anti-slavery petitions at age 16.

- Co-founder of the New York Women's State Temperance Society, a group dedicated to getting rid of alcohol

- Started the American Equal Rights Association, a group dedicated to obtaining equal rights for women and African-Americans.

- Published a women's rights focused newspaper called *The Revolution*.

- Arrested for voting in 1872. When convicted she refused to pay the fine.

- During the trial she gave a powerful speech on why women should be allowed to vote. The judge repeatedly told her to sit down and be silent yet she continued.

- Gave up to 100 speeches a year supporting women's rights.

- Signed the Declaration of Sentiments, a document outlining rights demanded by leaders of the women's rights movement.

- Wore a knee-length dress over long pants for a while.

- Walked out of a temperance conference when she was not allowed to speak due to being a woman. She organized her own conference instead.

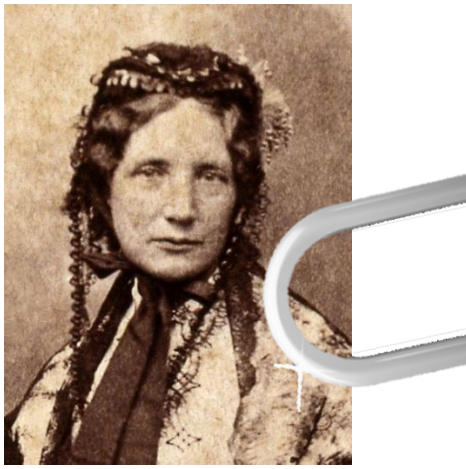
- At the 1857 teacher's convention she introduced a resolution allowing African-Americans admission to schools and colleges. It didn't pass.

- Helped slaves escape as a member of the Underground Railroad.

Testimony

"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about a reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in

the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences." – Susan B. Anthony



Name: Harriet Beecher Stowe

Born: 1811

Actions

-Provided sanctuary for escaped slaves in defiance of recently passed fugitive slave laws.

- Served as a supporter/member of the Underground Railroad.

- While in church service she had a vision of a slave dying inspiring her to share his story with others.

- Wrote the fictional novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to help others see the horrors of slavery.

- It brought the horrors of slavery such as how mothers were often torn from their families directly to the people of the North in a way it never had before.

- Many of the heroes of the story are women pointing to Stowe's belief that women were important to the cause of ending slavery.

- It sold 300,000 copies in less than a year – one of the fastest selling books ever up to that point. It was the best-selling novel of the 1800s. The only book to sell more was the Bible.

- It was made into a play spreading the story even further among the lower classes who couldn't read. The play also became incredible popular.

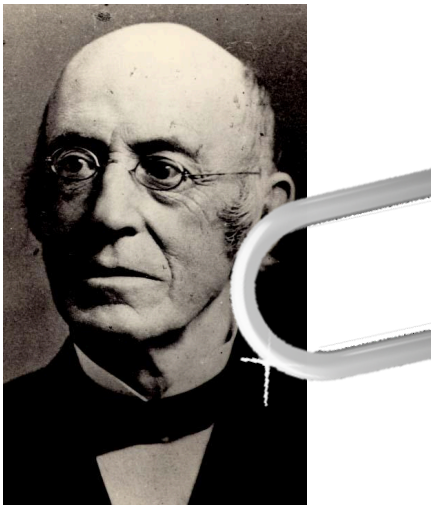
- The story so inspired the North that many babies born at the time were named after characters in it.

- Later in life she became an advocate for women's rights, specifically married women, arguing that they had as little freedom as the slaves themselves.

Testimony

"So you are the little woman that started this great war." - Abraham Lincoln

"I did not write it (Uncle Tom's Cabin). God Write it. I merely did his dictation." –Harriet Beecher Stowe



Name: William Lloyd Garrison

Born: 1805

Actions

-Refused to sit in the main hall of the World Anti-Slavery Convention because women were not allowed in. Instead, in protest, he sat in the back room with the women.

- Founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society

- Editor of *The Northern Philanthropist*, a magazine which argued that alcohol should be made illegal.

- Creator of the leading abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator.*

- Also wrote about women's rights issues in the paper and included articles by leading women such as the Grimke sisters.

- Some argued that including women in abolition would cause both to fail. Garrison disagreed strongly and encouraged women to start their own organizations against slavery if they had to.

- Refused to participate in government saying that the Constitution was a pro-slavery document and to participate at all was to support it.

- Before long *The Liberator* was the most powerful voice for both abolition and women's rights in the North.

- Garrison refused any kind of violence relying instead on "moral-suasion" (peaceful resistance) to battle slavery.

- When slavery was eliminated in 1865 he continued to fight for rights for women and the newly freed African-Americans.

Testimony

*"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—**AND I WILL BE HEARD**."* —William Lloyd Garrison

Northern Reformer Dossiers

Many Reformers in the North fought for more than one cause. Often those fighting for the elimination of slavery were the same as those fighting for the rights of women. You will examine the dossiers of six reformers to determine what their main cause was and how effective they were in fighting for that cause.

Name: William Lloyd Garrison

His main cause:

Top 2 actions taken to advance that cause:

1.

2.

Rate the effectiveness of his actions 1-5: _____

Explain your rating:

What does the testimony reveal about him?

Name: Harriet Beecher Stowe

Her main cause:

Top 2 actions taken to advance that cause:

1.

2.

Rate the effectiveness of her actions 1-5: _____

Explain your rating:

What does the testimony reveal about her?

Name: Frederick Douglass

His main cause:

Top 2 actions taken to advance that cause:

1.

2.

Rate the effectiveness of his actions 1-5: _____

Explain your rating:

What does the testimony reveal about him?

Name: Susan. B Anthony

Her main cause:

Top 2 actions taken to advance that cause:

1.

2.

Rate the effectiveness of her actions 1-5: _____

Explain your rating:

What does the testimony reveal about her?

Name: Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Her main cause:

Top 2 actions taken to advance that cause:

1.

2.

Rate the effectiveness of her actions 1-5: _____

Explain your rating:

What does the testimony reveal about her?

[redacted]