

Five W's and How Research Template

Topic: Transcendentalists

Group Members' Names: (in colors)

Ale Guzman

Ellie Coon

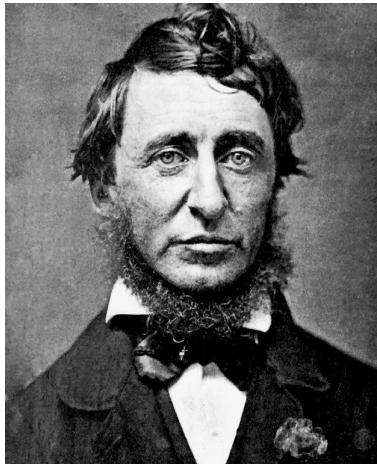
Ethan Battistini

Isabelle Birebent

Anna Gabriel

Josue Figueroa Cazares

Kili Osborne

Who?	1. Transcendentalism is an American literary, political, and philosophical movement of the early nineteenth century, centered around Ralph Waldo Emerson. Other important transcendentalists were Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, Amos Bronson Alcott, Frederic Henry Hedge, and Theodore  Parker. 2. Popular Transcendentalists of the Era: - Ralph Waldo Emerson - Henry David Thoreau Modern Transcendentalists: - Martin Luther King Jr. - Mahatma Gandhi - Mother Theresa 3. Waldo Emerson is truly the center of the American transcendental movement, setting out most of its ideas and values in a little book, <u>Nature</u>, published in 1836, that represented at least ten years of intense study in philosophy, religion, and literature, and in his First Series of essays. 4. The "Transcendentalists" were a number of young Americans, most of them born into the Unitarianism of New England in the early nineteenth century, who in the 1830's became excited, or
------	---

	rather intoxicated, by the new literature of England and of the Continent (and also by a cursory introduction to that of the orient), and who thereupon revolted against the rationalism of their fathers. Perhaps "revolted" is a bit too strong: though they said scornful things in Emerson's phrase, about "the corpsecold Unitarianism of Harvard College and Brattle Street," they owed much to the liberalism of the creed they outgrew. More accurately, then, they may be defined in a somewhat wider perspective as children of the Puritan past who, having been emancipated by Unitarianism from New England's original Calvinism, found a new religious expression in forms derived from romantic literature and from the philosophical idealism of Germany. The individuals most closely associated with this new way of thinking were connected loosely through a group known as the Transcendental Club, which met in the Boston home of George Ripley. Their chief publication was a periodical called "The Dial," edited by Margaret Fuller, a political radical and feminist whose book "Women of the Nineteenth Century" was among the most famous of its time. The club had many extraordinary thinkers, but accorded the leadership position to Ralph Waldo Emerson.(2)
What? What is Transcendentalism ? What was the Transcendentalist movement about? What were the transcendentalists	Transcendentalism is a religious and philosophical movement that was developed during the late 1820s and 1830s in the Eastern region of the United States as a protest against the general state of spirituality and, in particular, the state of intellectualism at Harvard University and the doctrine of the Unitarian church taught at Harvard Divinity School. Among the transcendentalists' core beliefs was the inherent goodness of both people and nature. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism A literary and philosophical movement, associated with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller, asserting the existence of an ideal spiritual reality that transcends the empirical and scientific and is knowable through intuition. http://www.thefreedictionary.com/transcendentalism Unitarians placed a premium o stability, harmony, rational thought, progressive morality, classical learning, and other hallmarks of Enlightenment Christianity. (http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma95/finseth/trans.html) Everything is a reflection of God

believed.	Contemplating nature can allow you to transcend the real world and go to a higher, spiritual level A person's INSTINCT (intuition) can lead them to understand God's spirit Individualism and self-reliance are better than following others or depending on tradition. A person's true feelings and intuition are more valuable than book knowledge. http://www.phs.d211.org/english/NaumannL/Five%20Basic%20Beliefs%20of%20Transcendentalism.htm The term Transcendentalism was derived from the philosopher Kant, who called "all knowledge transcendental which is concerned not with objects but with our mode of knowing objects." The roots of the American philosophy ran deep into German and English <u>Romanticism</u>. From German philosophers such as Fichte and Herder, it received its mystic impulse; from Goethe, Novalis, Jean-Paul, Heine, and the other great German Romantic poets it acquired its imagistic language and themes. Acquaintance with German thought, by and large, filtered through English translations--Coleridge and Carlyle's among the best--and acquaintance with these and the work of other English Romantics such as Blake, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats, and Byron enriched the Americans' perspectives as well.(3)
Where did the transcendentalists start Where did the transcendentalist live.	They emerged in New England congregationalists in the 18th century. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism They are later located mainly in Massachusetts (Walden's Pond) The New England area which is New York and north to Maine. Some of the most well-known Ralph are Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, all of which lived in Massachusetts. They usually lived very simple and close to nature/ Spent a lot of time out in nature Exercise http://wiki.answers.com/Q/Where_did_most_transcendentalists_live This is Henry David Thoreau house on Walden pond.

Where did the transcendentalists get their inspiration from.



<http://blogs.dickinson.edu/romnat/files/2011/06/WaldenScan-112130000.jpg> Left.

<http://artsfuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/orchardhouse1.jpg>

Right, home of Louisa May Alcott.

They were a branch off the Puritans. The Puritans that their roots lie are from the colonial period. Also they come from Calvinism in the 17th and 18th century.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma95/finseth/trans.html>

When?

Transcendentalism is a religious and philosophical movement that was developed during the late 1820s and 1830s and it ended in 1850, in the Eastern region of the United States as a protest against the general state of spirituality and, the doctrine of the Unitarian church taught at Harvard Divinity School. Transcendentalists believe that society and its institutions—particularly organized religion and political parties—ultimately corrupt the purity of the individual. They have faith that people are at their best when truly "self-reliant" and independent. It is only from such real individuals that true community could be formed

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism>

In the early to mid-nineteenth century, a philosophical movement known as Transcendentalism took root in America and evolved into a predominantly literary expression. The adherents to Transcendentalism believed that knowledge could be arrived at not just through the senses, but through intuition and contemplation of the internal spirit. As such, they professed skepticism of all established religions, believing that

	Divinity resided in the individual, and the mediation of a church was cumbersome to achieving enlightenment. The genesis of the movement can be accurately traced to 1836 and the first gathering of the Transcendental Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The father of the movement, an appellation he probably did not relish, was Ralph Waldo Emerson. Other prominent contributors included Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller, William Henry Channing, and George Ripley. In the grand scheme, the Transcendentalist's moment on the literary stage was decidedly brief. With Fuller's death in 1850, one of the movement's great advocates was silenced. Emerson lacked the vitality and desire to follow in her path. Though their hold on the public imagination was short-lived, the long-lasting influence that the Transcendentalists had on American literature cannot be denied. Even the philosophy's critics were forced to acknowledge the effects that the Transcendental Movement had on the world, particularly the American experience of the world. For Transcendentalism was a distinctly American expression, with concerns and ideals that perhaps did not fully translate in England or Continental Europe. The philosophy was inexorably bound together with American's expansionist impulse, as well as the troubling question of slavery and women's place in society. A philosophical-literary movement cannot solve such problems, but it can provide the vocabulary to discuss them reasonably.(4)
Why was transcendentalism founded? Why were transcendentalists considered reformers and utopian idealists in America?	A theoretical group of peoples' beliefs differed from orthodox Calvinism on two issues, the belief that there is a unity of god, and rejected predestination. They opposed in contradiction of intellectualism and Unitarian teachings that was being pushed into culture and society by Harvard university and Harvard Divinity School respectively. http://www.ask.com/question/when-did-transcendentalism-start-and-why) In the first half of the nineteenth century, contributions from the American cultural and intellectual community led to a distinctive American national consciousness. Transcendentalists and their Anti-transcendentalist counterparts, fresh new ideas from writers and reformists, and Utopian idealists contributed a great deal to America's unique national conscience. These groups, among others, helped to establish America's own identity apart from other nations'. Transcendentalists opened up a new way of thinking for Americans. Henry David Thoreau, for example, was a transcendentalist who believed in a government that governed very little, if not at all. He had an enormous love and respect for nature and tried to persuade people to preserve it with state parks rather than

museums. He was America's first ecologist, studying nature and trying to stop its destruction. A fellow transcendentalist and poet by the name of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote poetry that reflected a similar respect for nature, a new way of thinking, and optimism. Others, like Wadsworth, set the stage for a different perspective for American thinking, one that embraced the natural world.

On the other side of the spectrum were the Anti-transcendentalists. Edgar Allen Poe, Melville, and their contemporaries' anti-transcendentalist views were dark, gloomy, and negative. They contradicted the Transcendentalists' optimism but still provided an original outlook that America could also call its own.

Reformers and rebellious authors had a huge impact on the American national consciousness, as well. The Knickerbockers were a group of writers in New York who questioned previous traditions and demanded a different American perspective. Reformers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who wrote such influential literature as the *Woman's Bible* and a declaration of independence for women, encouraged America to give rights to every person, regardless of gender, and discard the old ways of thinking.

Dorothea Dix was a reformer who rallied for better conditions for the mentally ill. Horace Mann championed "teacher schools" and fought for better education. Many abolitionists like Harriett Tubman and Harriett Beecher Stowe stood up for the rights of black Americans and the abolishment of slavery during this period. All of these reformers and writers, including many others, impacted America's new consciousness and individuality.

Utopian idealists were those people who wanted communal settlements that were supposed to bring a sense of unity to its inhabitants. They established Utopian societies like Brook Farms and others. Brook Farms and similar social experiments ultimately failed, but it showed how the Romanticist/Transcendentalist Age was influencing American and calling for change.

To conclude, the cultural and intellectual community's contributions to America brought about a special national awareness and collective consciousness. The new ideas and fresh perspectives of Transcendentalists, Anti-transcendentalists,

Why was transcendentalism criticized?	reformers, writers, and Utopian idealists brought American into a period of change and progress. The new way of thinking preceded America's separation from British culture and other foreign ways of thinking. (http://voices.yahoo.com/transcendentalism-reformers-utopian-idealists-440560.html) Early in the movement's history, the term "Transcendentalists" was used as a pejorative term by critics, who were suggesting their position was beyond sanity and reason. The term "transcendentalism" sometimes serves as shorthand for transcendental idealism, which is the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and later Kantian and German Idealist philosophers. Immanuel Kant had called "all knowledge transcendental which is concerned not with objects but with our mode of knowing objects.(1)
How...	... did the Transcendentalists originate? Transcendentalism first arose among New England Congregationalists,^[2] who differed from orthodox Calvinism on two issues.^[2] They rejected predestination, and they emphasized the unity instead of the trinity of God.^[2] Following the skepticism of David Hume, the transcendentalists took the stance that empirical proofs of religion were not possible.^[2] Transcendentalism developed as a reaction against 18th century rationalism, John Locke's philosophy of Sensualism, and the predestinationism of New England Calvinism. It is fundamentally composed of a variety of diverse sources, including Hindu texts like the Vedas, the Upanishads and the Bhaqavad Gita,^[3] various religions, and German Idealism.^[4] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism ... did Transcendentalism Start? Some Unitarian ministers realized that society/ government controlled what people did and that the individual person (as God's perfect creation) could do what's right if it is left alone. http://www.sgsd.k12.wi.us/homework/kanne/webpage%20stuff/American%20Literature/Am%20Lit%20A/Romantic%20Lit/Transcendentalist%20notes.htm

	http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/icon/transcend.html
Works Cited	1. Ale: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/transcendentalism/ 2. Ale: http://www.sgisd.k12.wi.us/homework/kanne/webpage%20stuff/American%20Literature/Am%20Lit%20A/Romantic%20Lit/Transcendentalist%20notes.htm 3. Ale: http://transcendentalism-legacy.tamu.edu/authors/emerson/ 4. Ale: http://www.westminster.edu/staff/brennie/wisdoms/transcen.htm Picture: http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/ba/Henry_David_Thoreau.jpg&imgrefurl=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_David_Thoreau&h=249&w=202&sz=1&tbnid=fWA2JHUhWyNkRM:&tbnh=160&tbnw=129&zoom=1&usq=__iTLP6YzbLivct9BBVy9o6z4DkFk=&docid=ms-wuOrxxrwHOM&itg=1&sa=X&ei=-PTrUuevB8aGogSSiILwCQ&ved=0CH4Q_B0wCg 1. Isabelle: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcendentalism#The Transcendental Club 2. Isabelle: http://www.ushistory.org/us/26f.asp 3. Isabelle: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ihas/icon/transcend.html 4. Isabelle: http://www.online-literature.com/periods/transcendentalism.php