

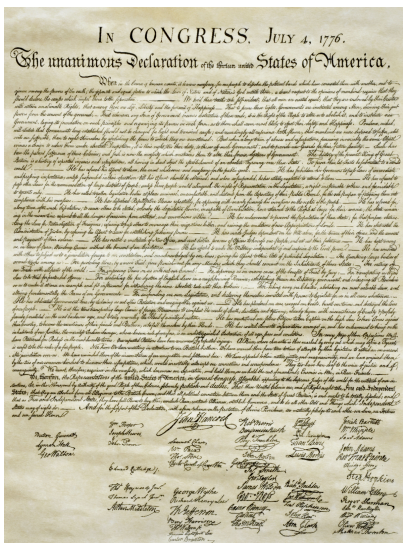
Radical Sentiments

Supporting Question: What were the goals of the activists at the Women's Rights Convention at Seneca Falls?

Instructions: Read each section carefully, and respond to the questions in complete sentences.

PART 1: INDEPENDENCE...FOR WHOM?

BACKGROUND: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . .” is one of the most famous lines of the Declaration of Independence, written during the American Revolution when Americans fought for independence from Britain. When America became the United States in 1789, in most of the country, this right only applied to white men. When George Washington was elected the first president of the United States, only 6% of

the country's population was able to vote.

Guiding Questions:

1. When the authors of the Declaration wrote of men's equality, who did they mean?

2. Why did they leave out 94% of the population?

PRIMARY SOURCE: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE EXCERPT

1	“ . . .When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to
2	dissolve [get rid of] the political bands [government] which have connected them with
3	another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station
4	[rights] to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle [give] them, a decent
5	respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which
6	impel [lead] them to the separation [of a government].
7	We hold these truths to be self-evident [obvious], that all men are created equal, that
8	they are endowed [given] by their Creator with certain unalienable [non-negotiable]
9	Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure
10	[guarantee] these rights, Governments are instituted among Men [created by men] ,
11	deriving [getting] their just powers from the consent of the governed [agreement of the
12	people they control], --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of
13	these ends [destroys rights], it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish [end] it,
14	and to institute [create] new Government. . .”
15	



Guiding Questions:

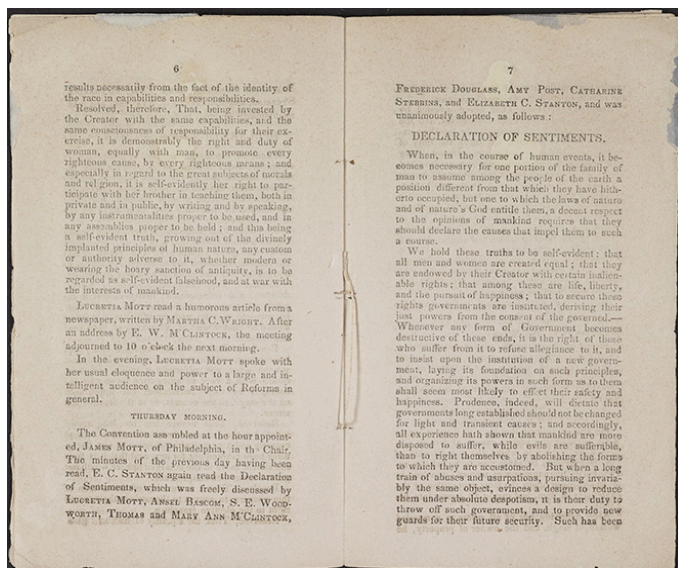
3. According to line 12, where does the power of a government come from?

4. Whose “consent” are they referring to?

5. Do you think this document was radical for 1776? Why or why not?

PART 2: DECLARATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

BACKGROUND: DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS



In July 1848 more than three hundred people got together in Seneca Falls, New York, for the nation's first women's rights convention [meeting]. At this meeting, Elizabeth Cady Stanton read her now-famous "Declaration of Sentiments" protesting women's lower legal status and listing eleven statements for the equality of women, the most radical of which demanded "the elective franchise [voting]." Three

days before the convention, feminists and convention organizers Lucretia Mott, Martha C. Wright, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Mary Ann McClintock met to set the agenda for the meeting along with the speeches that would be made.

PRIMARY SOURCE TEXT: DECLARATION OF SENTIMENTS EXCERPT

- 1 " . . . We hold these truths to be self-evident [obvious]; that all men and women
- 2 are created equal; that they are endowed [given] by their Creator [God] with certain
- 3 inalienable [unchangeable] rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
- 4 happiness; that to secure [guarantee] these rights governments are instituted
- 5 [created], deriving [getting] their just [legal] powers from the consent of the governed
- 6 [agreement of the citizens]. Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive
- 7 of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance [loyalty] to

8	it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such
9	principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to
10	effect their safety and happiness. . .”



Guiding Questions

1. Are lines 1-2 familiar? Why?

2. Why do you think Stanton, Mott, Wright, and Mcklintock chose to use the same language as the Declaration of Independence?

3. How do you think the general public (not just those who attended the convention) would have reacted to this comparison to the Declaration of Independence? Why?

In the chunked texts below, key words and phrases that will help answer the guiding questions are highlighted in yellow.

11	“He [Men] has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable [unchangeable] right to
12	the elective franchise [vote].
13	He has compelled her to submit [follow] to laws, in the formation [writing] of which she
14	had no voice.
15	He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded
16	[corrupt] men - both natives and foreigners [Indigenous people and immigrants]. . .”



Guiding Questions

4. What right are the authors demanding in this section?

5. How are the organizers going against their own beliefs by looking down on Indigenous people and immigrants in lines 15-16?

17	“He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.
18	He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns.
19	. . .In . . . marriage, she is compelled [forced] to promise obedience to her husband, he
20	becoming, to all intents and purposes, her master - the law giving him power to
21	deprive [take away] her of her liberty, and to administer chastisement [abuse].
22	He has so framed the laws of divorce. . .to whom the guardianship of the children
23	shall be given, as to be wholly [completely] regardless of the happiness of women -
24	the law, in all cases, going upon the false supposition [belief] of the supremacy
25	[dominance] of man, and giving all power into his hands.”

Guiding Questions



6. What rights are the authors demanding in this section?

26	“. . . if single and the owner of property, he has taxed her to support a government
27	which recognizes her only when her property can be made profitable to it.
28	He has monopolized [controlled] nearly all the profitable [successful] employments
29	[careers], and from those she is permitted [allowed] to follow, she receives [gets] but
30	

31	a scanty remuneration [low pay]. . .As a teacher of theology [religion], medicine, or
32	law, she is not known.
33	He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education - all colleges being closed against her. . .”

Guiding Questions



7. Through their grievances, what rights are the authors demanding in this section?

34	“ . . . In entering upon the great work [activism] before us, we anticipate [expect] no
35	small amount of misconception [misunderstanding], misrepresentation [lies], and
36	ridicule [disrespect] ; but we shall use every instrumentality [strategy] within our power
37	to effect [achieve] our object [goals]. We shall employ agents, circulate tracts
38	[documents], petition the State and national Legislatures [lawmakers], and endeavor
39	[try] to enlist the pulpit [churches] and the press [media] in our behalf. We hope this
40	Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the
41	country.



Guiding Questions

8. In lines 35-36, what are the authors recognizing about how their message will be received?

9. In lines 37-39, what are some of the strategies the authors list about how they will continue their fight?

Signatures:

Lucretia Mott
 Harriet Cady Eaton
 Margaret Pryor
 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 Eunice Newton Foote
 Mary Ann M'Clintock
 Margaret Schooley
 Martha C. Wright
 Jane C. Hunt
 Amy Post
 Catharine F. Stebbins
 Mary Ann Frink
 Lydia Mount
 Delia Mathews
 Catharine C. Paine
 Elizabeth W. M'Clintock
 Malvina Seymour
 Phebe Mosher
 Catharine Shaw
 Deborah Scott
 Sarah Hallowell
 Mary M'Clintock
 Mary Gilbert
 Sophrone Taylor
 Cynthia Davis
 Hannah Plant
 Lucy Jones
 Sarah Whitney
 Mary H. Hallowell
 Elizabeth Conklin
 Sally Pitcher
 Mary Conklin
 Susan Quinn
 Mary S. Mirror
 Phebe King
 Julia Ann Drake
 Charlotte Woodward
 Martha Underhill
 Dorothy Mathews
 Eunice Barker
 Sarah R. Woods
 Lydia Gild
 Sarah Hoffman
 Elizabeth Leslie
 Martha Ridley
 Rachel D. Bonnel
 Betsey Tewksbury
 Rhoda Palmer
 Margaret Jenkins

Cynthia Fuller
 Mary Martin
 P. A. Culvert
 Susan R. Doty
 Rebecca Race
 Sarah A. Mosher
 Mary E. Vail
 Lucy Spalding
 Lavinia Latham
 Sarah Smith
 Eliza Martin
 Maria E. Wilbur
 Elizabeth D. Smith
 Caroline Barker
 Ann Porter
 Experience Gibbs
 Antoinette E. Segur
 Hannah J. Latham
 Sarah Sisson

The following are the names of the gentlemen present in favor of the movement:

Richard P. Hunt
 Samuel D. Tillman
 Justin Williams
 Elisha Foote
 Frederick Douglass
 Henry Seymour
 Henry W. Seymour
 David Spalding
 William G. Barker
 Elias J. Doty
 John Jones
 William S. Dell
 James Mott
 William Burroughs
 Robert Smallbridge
 Jacob Mathews
 Charles L. Hoskins
 Thomas M'Clintock
 Saron Phillips
 Jacob P. Chamberlain
 Jonathan Metcalf
 Nathan J. Milliken
 S.E. Woodworth
 Edward F. Underhill
 George W. Pryor
 Joel D. Bunker

Isaac Van Tassel
 Thomas Dell
 E. W. Capron
 Stephen Shear
 Henry Hatley
 Azaliah Schooley

**Guiding Questions**

10. Did you expect there to be more or fewer names? Why?

11. Did the number of men who signed surprise you? Why or why not?