**Reform Movements**

**Section 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | What efforts were made to change American society |
| 00:00:02 | in the early 1800s? In the warm up, we talked about the first Great Awakening, which eventually led to the Second Great Awakening. In this lesson, we're going to learn about other social movements such as the Second Great Awakening, efforts to reform society, and efforts to reform education and provide freedoms. |
| 00:00:21 | The Second Great Awakening was a religious movement that provided new energy to the country. Let's start by focusing here. |

**Section 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The Second Great Awakening was a movement to |
| 00:00:03 | revive and reform Protestant churches in America. It began in Upstate New York in the 1790s. Evangelical Protestants were a group of Christians who believed that people could be saved by faith. When people changed or converted to the Evangelicals' religion, their spirits would be reborn. They thought that preaching was a very important aspect of this. |
| 00:00:27 | Revivalism was the name given to this attempt to bring new energy and life to the church. Churches were traditionally formal, quiet places. Now, the revival meetings were often loud exciting, much like a football game. Evangelical preachers led these meetings. They emphasized people's duties to do what was right and resist sinful behavior. |

**Section 4**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | Charles Grandison Finney was a key figure in the |
| 00:00:02 | Second Great Awakening. He held revivalist meetings across the nation that drew more, and more, and more people. He believed that excitement was necessary to promote faith. He wanted people to enjoy themselves and have fun at his meetings. He became president of Oberlin College later in his life. |

**Section 6**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | You have learned conversion was an important aspect of |
| 00:00:02 | revivalism. Many African Americans were converted during Methodist and Baptist revivals. They joined the revivals, but generally weren't treated very well, so they created their own traditions and even formed their own churches, both in the North and in the South. Enslaved persons held their own worship services on plantations. |
| 00:00:20 | Free blacks created their own congregations as well. One of these was the African Methodist Episcopal Church founded in Philadelphia by Richard Allen, picture here. Congregations protested discrimination and slavery. They also established the first black colleges in America. Some African American churches even had female preachers. This, of course, was a very controversial issue. |
| 00:00:44 | Not everyone agreed that women should be preachers, both in African American churches and in white churches. Picture here is Juliann Jane Tillman. She's preaching at the African Methodist Episcopal Church. |

**Section 8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | The Second Great Awakening was a revival movement that led to |
| 00:00:02 | many changes in how religion was practiced in the United States. Exciting revival meetings brought more people into the Church, and many African Americans joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church. But religion was not the only aspect of American society to experience change. There were efforts made to improve |
| 00:00:20 | Americans' quality of life. In this segment you will learn about a few reform movements that resulted from the Second Great Awakening. |

**Section 9**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | The Second Great Awakening had three important effects. |
| 00:00:03 | It increased church attendance, it increased emphasis on moral behavior, and it increased attention on reforming and improving society. The first of these changes that resulted from the Second Great Awakening is the temperance movement. In the 1800s, people drank way more than they do today, up to 3 times as much as they do today. This is because water back then was not as good as it is |
| 00:00:27 | today, and alcohol was much safer. Excessive drinking obviously caused troubles within the family and at work. Men had to bring home the money and instead spent that money on alcohol. Churches began the temperance movement to try and combat these problems. Temperance is little or no drinking of alcohol. |
| 00:00:49 | Many women joined this movement because they were not allowed to work, and this was a better way to get their men to bring the money home. Taking a look at this engraving here, you can see the temperance movements showed women crying, people dying, and lots of fights. These are the evils and ills of alcohol. |

**Section 11**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | In the 1830s, a movement to improve working conditions in |
| 00:00:03 | New England factories began. Workers went on strike at cotton mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. Because these workers were young women, they were called the Lowell Mill Girls. The girls formed the Lowell Female Labor Reform Association in 1844. This was one of the first labor organizations |
| 00:00:20 | for women by women. The organization pushed for better working conditions, a 10 hour workday, and pay raises. But it wasn't just workers looking to reform. Dorothea Dix, for example, was concerned with the situation of the poor and of the mentally ill. Dix was a teacher from Boston who visited prisons and mental institutions in Massachusetts and throughout |
| 00:00:43 | the rest of the country. She discovered terrible and deplorable conditions and advocated for reform. Reform means to speak up and enact change. She did this by writing a report to the Massachusetts legislature that led to an enlargement of mental institutions in Worcester, Massachusetts. You'll read part of that report in the assignment. |
| 00:01:04 | Dix also worked to improve hospitals throughout the nation and in Canada. |

**Section 13**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | During this time, many people were interested in new ways of |
| 00:00:03 | organizing society. Some of them formed Utopias. A Utopia is an ideal, or perfect, society. Some Utopias were built on religious beliefs, others built on new rules for society. One such community is New Harmony, Indiana, shown in this image. The community shared all property. |
| 00:00:22 | Several Utopias were formed, but most ended up failing. The Shaker and the Oneida communities were two famous Utopias. The Shakers were a Christian group. They believed in a very simple life. Their name comes from the fact that they practice dancing as part of their religious beliefs. They're very well known for making simple, |
| 00:00:41 | but very nice, furniture. The Oneida community, which formed in upstate New York, was another Utopian experiment. It was formed much later than the Shaker community. The founder of the Oneida community felt that limiting and controlling society was the only way for his Utopia to succeed. He chose people who were allowed to be parents, and |
| 00:01:02 | criticized publicly people for their failings. Residents called themselves perfectionists. This community lasted for about 30 years. These Utopias may seem extreme, but this is what people wanted to do at the time. They wanted to find new ways, and moral ways, to live life. |

**Section 15**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:01 | TEACHER: The Second Great Awakening led people to try |
| 00:00:03 | and improve other parts of society. Remember, people began to campaign against the excessive drinking of alcohol and the poor treatment of prisoners and factory workers. Some even tried to form Utopian communities in an effort to create a model society. In this segment, you will learn about efforts to improve society, including movements to end slavery and expand |
| 00:00:25 | education for all people. |

**Section 16**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | Another cause that gain strength from the Second Great |
| 00:00:02 | Awakening was the abolitionist movement. Abolitionism was the movement to end to slavery. Much of its energy came from free African Americans and whites from the north that believed slavery was immoral. Many people from many different walks of life joined and became part of this movement. The American Anti-Slavery Society was founded in 1833 by William Lloyd Garrison. |
| 00:00:25 | The movement didn't have much effect on the South quite yet, where most enslaved people were. |

**Section 18**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | Education was another reform that came out of the Second |
| 00:00:03 | Great Awakening. Horace Mann, for example, wanted to improve the country's education system. He believed that education was key to individual rights. He believed that everyone should have access to education regardless of social class. He also believed that education should be secular and paid for by the public so that everyone could have |
| 00:00:21 | access to it. He's the founder of the common school movement, which is basically the ancestor of the public school system that we have today. The movement's goal was to strengthen public education by increasing the influence of the state's over how and what students should be learning. He also is a proponent of making teaching a profession. |
| 00:00:42 | In 1848, Horace Mann became a representative in Congress, where he fought very hard against slavery. In a graduation speech that he gave shortly before his death in 1859, he said, be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity. The public school system came from the common school system of the past. The common school movement stated that school should be |
| 00:01:05 | for all children to attend, paid for by tax dollars, open to all faiths, creeds, and social classes, and run by the states. Basically, this is the system that we still use today. |

**Section 20**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 00:00:00 | Another key figure in the spread of American education |
| 00:00:02 | and a distinct American language was Noah Webster. Webster created the first American dictionary of English, published in 1828. He believed that language reflected culture, and that changed based on how and where people used it. His dictionary contained many different definitions of words that generally were never found in a dictionary before. He also created American spellings for some words. |
| 00:00:27 | His dictionary standardized usage and spelling of American English, which helped make American English a recognized language. A modern form of his original dictionary is still in use and still survives today. |