

Name _____ Date _____

Women's Rights

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b"

Notes

In 1848, women gathered together in Seneca Falls, New York, to rally for women's rights. The Seneca Falls Convention for women's rights was the first of its kind. Five women, who were also active in the abolitionist movement, organized the convention. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Mary M. Clintock, Martha Coffin Wright, and Jane Hunt. During the convention, the Declaration of Sentiments was drafted and adopted. This document, modeled after the Declaration of Independence, outlined the grievances and demands of the women's rights movement. It stated women are entitled to the same fundamental rights as men, including the right to vote, property, education, and job choices.

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2. b'

Notes

The women's rights movement wasn't without opposition. Some men and women were afraid of seeing changes in traditional gender roles, especially giving women the right to vote. Anti-suffragists argued women weren't fit to vote. But resistance only fueled activists to hold marches, rallies, and events across the nation to emphasize women are responsible citizens who deserve a political voice.

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In 1869, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony started the National Woman Suffrage Association to push for a suffrage amendment to the US Constitution. They claimed the Constitution actually said they already had the right to vote. So in 1872, Susan B. Anthony and 14 other women attempted to vote in Rochester, New York, and were actually able to submit ballots. But they were later arrested and charged for voting illegally.

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The battle for voting rights was slow. It took until 1920 for Congress to ratify, or pass, the 19th Amendment, which finally gave American women the right to vote. More than eight million women voted on November 2, 1920, for the US presidential election.

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Although this was a long-awaited win and a significant milestone, the amendment didn't grant all women the right to vote. Women of color were still disenfranchised. Discriminatory practices were put in place, like poll taxes and literacy tests, to discourage them from voting. It took another 45 years for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which prohibited racial discrimination in voting. Today, the fight for women's rights continues as women across the globe advocate for equality and justice.

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