Interactive Notebook Set-Up

- Abolition and Feminist Movements
- 1/30/2020
- This will be one page
Feminist Movement

- Inspired by Enlightenment calls for political rights and equality for all people

- Many women felt and assumed that they were going to be included in the major changes caused by the Enlightenment

- However this was not really the case in any of the major political revolutions that the Enlightenment Inspired
Feminist Movement
Mary Wollstonecraft and Olympe de Gouges—Early leaders
The Cult of Domesticity

- Godey’s Lady’s Book was the most widely read magazine for women at the time.

- This was one of the many magazines at the time that helped encourage the principles of “true womanhood.”
Godey’s proclaimed

- "The perfection of womanhood... is the wife and mother, the center of the family, that magnet that draws man to the domestic altar, that makes him a civilized being, a social Christian."

- "The wife is truly the light of the home."
Piety

- Belief that women had a propensity for religion

- Woman is with God to save the world through her pure, passionless love.
Purity

- Her greatest treasure
  - Once married, she has no legal or emotional existence
  - Her purity is a weapon, to keep men in control of their sexual needs
  - 19th century purity fetish
    - Cover table and chair legs
    - Separate male and female authors
    - Stork and cabbage patch stories of babies
Submissiveness

- Women to be passive, submissive to fate, duty, God and men;
- Clothing emphasized passivity
  - Corsets closed off lungs and pinched inner organs
  - Large numbers of undergarments and weight of dresses limited mobility
  - “A really sensible woman feels her dependence. She does what she can, but she is conscious of her inferiority and therefore grateful for support.”
Domesticity

- Housework is an uplifting task
  - Needlework and crafts approved duties;
- Women make the home a refuge for men so that they can escape from the immoral world of business and industry
THE HAPPY FAMILY.

Illustrated especially for Godby's Lady's Book.
Truisms about Women

- “A woman has a head almost too small for intellect but just big enough for love.”

- “True feminine genius is ever timid, doubtful, and clingingly dependent; a perpetual childhood.”
Feminist Movement

• Many Middle Class Women also used the ideas of Cult of Domesticity to increase:
  ▪ Involvement in politics/activism
  ▪ Access to education
Feminist Movement

• How am I supposed to teach my kids and raise them to be good citizens if I am not educated myself?
Feminist Movement

- If it is my responsibility to make the home more moral, why not the World as well?

- Built skills of organization and political activism working in social reform

- Worked in things like Education, Anti-Alcohol (Temperance), etc.
Feminist Movement

- Seneca Falls Convention = birth of the modern women’s rights movement
Feminist Movement

- The members of the convention called for:
  - SFC called for:
    - Educational and professional opportunities
    - Property rights
    - Legal equality
    - Ability keep children in divorce
    - Suffrage
Feminist Movement

- Women began to push for the right to vote

- Women working for voting rights were called suffragettes
Mr. President
How long
must
women wait
for liberty
HOW IT FEELS TO BE FORCIBLY FED
There were two of them wrenching at my mouth. My breath was coming faster and with a sort of low scream that was getting louder. I heard them talking: "Here is a gap."

Then I felt a steel instrument pressing against my gums, cutting into the flesh, forcing its way in. Then it gradually prised my jaws apart as they turned a screw...I held my poor bleeding gums down on the steel with all my strength.

The same thing happened in the evening; but I was too tired to fight so long.
Abolition Background

- 1780 – 1890 chattel slavery lost its legitimacy and was largely ended
Abolition Background

Multiple strands of anti-slavery arguments:

- Secular = slavery is a violation of natural rights and Enlightenment values
- Religious = slavery is amoral; a “crime in the sight of God”
Abolition Background

- Most Abolitionists called for the ending of slave trade first
- After this they would then push for the full end of slavery
Abolition Techniques

Boycotts on slave produced goods
Abolition Techniques

- Pressing governments/lawmakers to pass anti-slavery laws
Abolition Techniques

- Speeches, slave narratives, etc. brought attention to the horrors of slavery.

- Uncle Tom’s Cabin became one of the most widely read books in the Northern States.
Abolition of Slavery

- 1807 = Britain ended the sale of slaves within its empire
- 1834 Britain freed all remaining slaves
- British naval vessels patrolled the Atlantic, intercepted illegal slave ships, and freed the people on board
- Other countries followed suit over the next half century
Effects of Abolition

- Abolition was not easy
- Plantation owners fiercely resisted the efforts of abolitionists
- Both European and African slave traders resisted abolitionists
- Most intense resistance to abolition and persistence of slavery in the southern United States
  - Took a WAR to end slavery!
Effects of Abolition

- Economic and political lives of former slaves did not improve dramatically at all.
- Often could not find work or found work, but were paid VERY little.
- No political equality → in many places, former slaves couldn’t vote and had to live with harsh segregation laws.
- Former slaves had to deal with persistent racism, discrimination, and violence.
Louisiana Black Codes

- No public meetings or congregations of negroes shall be allowed within said parish after sunset; but such public meetings and congregations may be held between the hours of sunrise and sunset, by the special permission in writing of the captain of patrol.
Louisiana Black Codes

- Every negro is required to be in the regular service of some white person, or former owner, who shall be held responsible for the conduct of said negro.

- No negro who is not in the military service shall be allowed to carry fire-arms, or any kind of weapons, within the parish, without the special written permission of his employers, approved and indorsed by the nearest and most convenient chief of patrol.