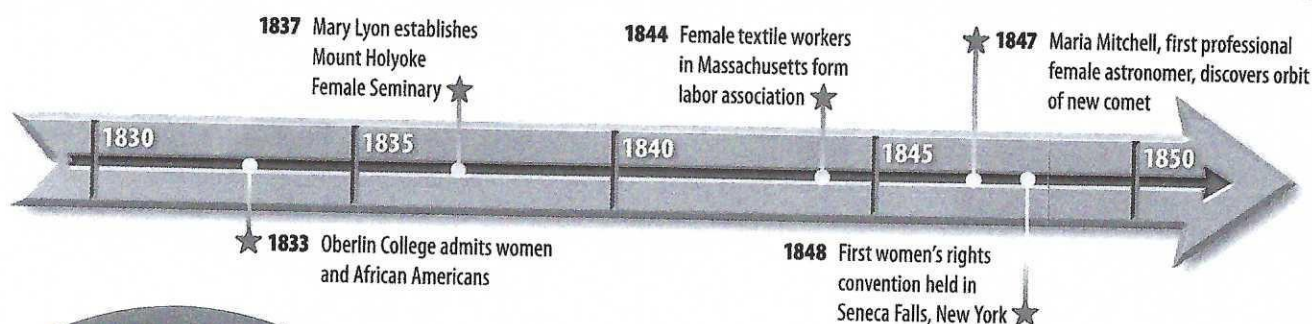


## OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT FOR WOMEN



### INFOGRAPHIC

In the mid-1800s, women began to argue for—and earn—their own rights and an equal place in society.

- 1 **IDENTIFYING** Which items on the time line reflect growing opportunities for women to learn and gain skills?
- 2 **CRITICAL THINKING**  
*Analyzing* Which items on the time line suggest women were using their education to achieve great things?

Elizabeth Stanton insisted the resolutions include a demand for woman suffrage. Some delegates worried that the idea was too radical. Mott told her friend, “Lizzie, thee will make us ridiculous.” Standing with Stanton, Frederick Douglass argued powerfully for women’s right to vote. After a heated debate, the convention voted to include in their declaration the demand for woman suffrage in the United States.

### The Seneca Falls Declaration

The first women’s rights convention called for women’s equality and for their right to vote, to speak publicly, and to run for office. The convention issued a Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions modeled on the Declaration of Independence. Just as Thomas Jefferson had in 1776, women are announcing the need for revolutionary change based on a claim of basic rights:

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto [before] occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.”

In this passage, two important words—*and women*—are added to Thomas Jefferson’s famous phrase:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. . . .”



The women's declaration called for an end to laws that discriminated against women. It demanded that women be free to enter the all-male world of trades, professions, and businesses.

“The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and [wrongful takings of power] on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. . . .

Now, in view of this entire [withholding of rights] of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation,—in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States. ”

—Seneca Falls Convention Declaration of Sentiments

## The Women's Movement Grows

The Seneca Falls Convention helped launch a wider movement. In the years to come, reformers held several national conventions, with the first taking place in Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1850. Both male and female reformers joined the cause.

Among the movement's leaders was Susan B. Anthony. Anthony was the daughter of a Quaker abolitionist. She called for equal pay and college training for women, and **coeducation** (coh•eh•juh•KAY•shuhn)—the teaching of males and females together. Anthony also organized the country's first women's temperance association, the Daughters of Temperance. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton at a temperance meeting in 1851. They became lifelong friends and partners in the struggle for women's rights and suffrage.

Opportunities for women increased greatly in the late 1800s. Beginning with Wyoming in 1890, several states granted woman suffrage. Yet not until 1920 and the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution did women gain the right to vote everywhere.

### PROGRESS CHECK

**Describing** What is suffrage?

**coeducation** the teaching of males and females together

## New York CONNECTION

Matilda Joslyn Gage

Along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Joslyn Gage founded the National Woman Suffrage Association. Gage, a native of Cicero, New York, served in various capacities of the organization for more than 20 years.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left), seen here with Susan B. Anthony, was an organizer of the Seneca Falls Convention.

