

SS4H7 The student will examine the main ideas of the abolitionist and suffrage movements.

The intent of this standard is for students to learn about two major social change movements of the 19th century through the biographies of women who worked in those movements.

a. Discuss the biographies of Harriet Tubman and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

For this element, students should learn about the abolitionist and suffrage movements using Tubman and Stanton as examples of people working for those changes. As always, dates are for reference.

**Harriet Tubman:* Tubman is perhaps best known as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Beginning in 1849, she is believed to have led over 300 enslaved people to freedom, often at great risk to her own personal safety. However, Tubman also advanced the abolitionist cause by speaking and writing to convince Americans that slavery was wrong. Following the Civil War, Tubman continued to fight for freedom by advocating for full suffrage for women until her death in 1913. A fairly simple biography with interesting details about her abolition work can be found here: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p1535.html>. For a fun interactive activity about Harriet Tubman's success on the Underground Railroad, visit: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/j2.html>.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902):* Stanton was an outspoken advocate for full legal rights for women beginning in the first half of the 19th century. She organized the Seneca Falls Convention (1848), where the delegates adopted a document she had written calling for equal political rights. Also active in the movement for abolition, Stanton continued to advocate for full suffrage for women and African-American men following the Civil War. Her suffrage work evolved over time, and developed into a call for full social reform as well as political equality. For a more detailed biography, visit: <http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/resources/ecsbio.html>.

b. Explain the significance of Sojourner Truth to the abolition and suffrage movements.

Sojourner Truth was born into enslavement in New York state, and had been sold several times and run away by the time the state abolished slavery in 1827. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth (from Isabella Baumfree) following a religious experience in 1843, and began her career as a traveling preacher. Despite being illiterate, she spoke alongside famous abolitionists, and eventually became important to the women's rights movement, as well. {Teachers should note that recent scholarship by Nell Painter of Princeton University has indicated that the speech commonly attributed to Truth, "Aint/Aren't I a Woman?" was in fact written by someone else. Sojourner Truth DID give an impassioned speech at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Ohio, but the content of that speech is lost to history. For more information: http://academic2.marist.edu/foy/esopus/sojourner_truth.htm.}