

The Artios Home Companion Series

Unit 24b: Shaping a New America

Teacher Overview

“Say it loud, I’m Black and I’m proud.” -soul singer James Brown

“A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.” -women’s rights leader Gloria Steinem

“We have a power that comes from the justice of our cause.” -farm workers leader Cesar Chavez

As awareness was being raised across America about civil rights for African Americans, it was only natural for other groups who felt marginalized to make demands of their own. A new feminist movement emerged in the 1960s pressing for modern reforms.

Women were often excluded from the highest paying positions and frequently received lower wages than their male counterparts performing the same types of jobs. They could not legally own property in some states, and widows sometimes lost the credit rating they had achieved with their husbands (while widowers did not). Clearly certain reforms were needed, and Congress and state legislatures responded with legislation prohibiting gender discrimination in the workplace. But radical feminist goals went further, demanding such things as legalization of abortion and an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

Latino Americans and Native Americans had also languished in the bottom economic strata throughout much of the prosperous 1950s. Leaders organized efforts to close this gap. By the end of the decade, the gay rights movement also began to demand acceptance of their lifestyle practices. The politics of identity dominated America as these and other groups found their voices of protest.

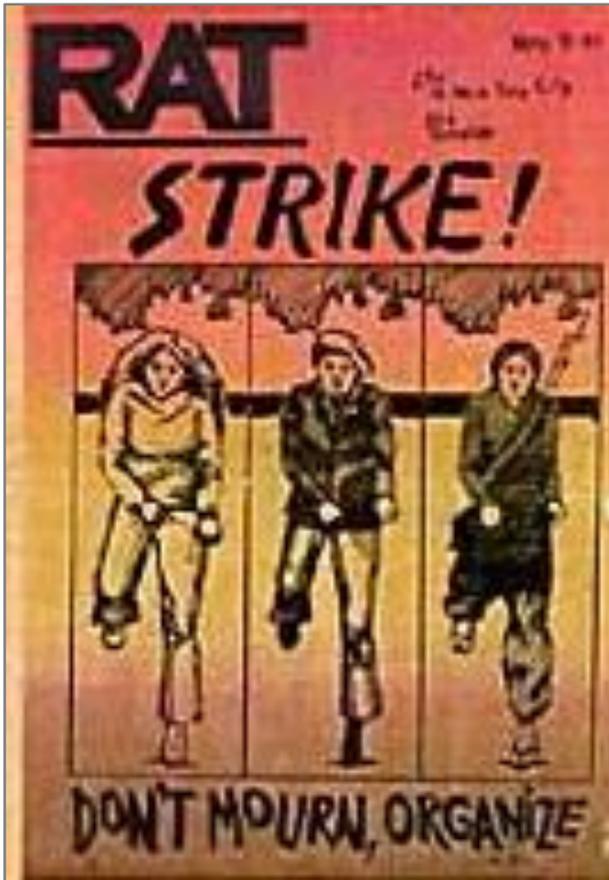
Another battle cry was sounded against pollution, and the environmental movement was born. Organizations, ranging from anti-humanists to promoters of recycling, formed in support of regulations of various types. Congress passed a number of laws, and the Environmental Protection Agency was established in 1970.

In the 1960s, the first baby boomers entered college. College administrators were confronted with outspoken students demanding revision of core academic curricula, opportunities to exercise free speech, and more relaxed college rules. A small but highly visible segment of students withdrew from the mainstream and created a counterculture with profound impact on American values, fashion, and music.

Reading and Assignments

In this unit, students will:

- Complete two lessons in which they will learn about **women’s rights, environmental reform, and identity politics**, journaling and answering discussion questions as they read.
- Define a vocabulary word.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.



Rat, an underground radical feminist newspaper. This cover is from a 1970 issue.

Key People, Places, and Events

Betty Friedan – *The Feminine Mystique*
 National Organization for Women
 Equal Rights Amendment
 Gloria Steinem
 Phyllis Schlafly
Roe v. Wade
 Right-to-Life Amendment
 Pro-choice
 Pro-life
 Wilderness Protection Act
 Water Quality Act
 Air Quality Act
 Greenpeace
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Cesar Chavez
 United Farm Workers
 American Indian Movement

Vocabulary

Lesson 1:
 litmus

Lesson 2:
 none

Leading Ideas

God created each individual uniquely and for a specific purpose thereby showing the value that God places on human life.

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

— Psalm 139:13-14

We are stewards of God's earth, ruling over that which is not ours.

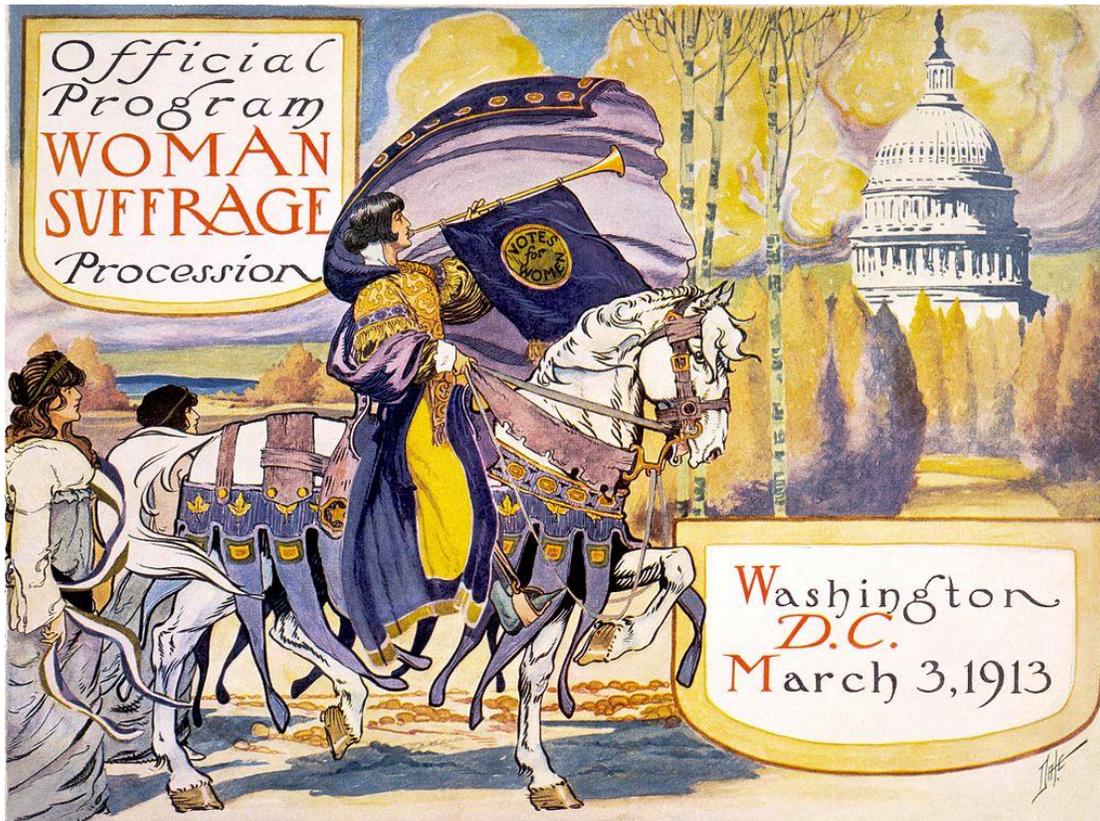
You made them rulers over the works of Your hands; You put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

— Psalm 8:6-8

Lesson One

History Overview and Assignments Women Demand Equality

As awareness was being raised across America about civil rights, it was only natural that other groups would make demands of their own. A new feminist movement emerged in the 1960s pressing for modern reforms. Reforms for women were needed, and Congress and state legislatures responded with legislation prohibiting gender discrimination in the workplace. But radical feminist goals went further, demanding such things as legalization of abortion and an Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution.



Cover to the program for the 1913 Woman Suffrage Parade which Alice Paul organized.

As founder of the National Women's Party, Alice Paul first introduced the Equal Rights Amendment to Congress in 1923.

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion questions and vocabulary, then read the article: *Women Demand Equality*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Define the vocabulary word in the context of the reading and put the word and its definition in the vocabulary section of your history notebook.
- Be sure to visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Vocabulary

litmus

Key People, Places, and Events

Betty Friedan – *The Feminine Mystique*
National Organization for Women
Equal Rights Amendment

Gloria Steinem
Pro-choice
Right-to-Life Amendment

Phyllis Schlafly
Pro-life
Roe v. Wade

Discussion Questions

1. What were some of the areas in which women originally asked for legislation to protect their rights?
2. What are the more radical areas that became areas of demand by the National Organization for Women and others?
3. What is the two-step process for amending the Constitution?
4. How far did the ERA get in its ratification process?
5. What stemmed the tide against the ERA?
6. Describe the events surrounding *Roe v. Wade*. Be specific and complete.

Adapted for High School from the book:

U.S. History Online Textbook

source: ushistory.org

Women Demand Equality

In 1963, Betty Friedan published a book called *The Feminine Mystique* that identified “the problem that has no name.” Within three years of its publication, a new feminist movement was born. In 1966, Friedan and others formed an activist group called the National Organization for Women. They demanded equal pay for equal work and pressured the government to support and enforce legislation that prohibited gender discrimination.

Like the anti-war and civil rights movements, feminism developed a radical faction by the end of the decade. In 1968, a group demonstrated outside the Miss America Pageant outside Atlantic City by crowning a live sheep. “Freedom Trash Cans” were built where women could throw

all symbols of female oppression including false eyelashes, hair curlers, girdles, and high-heeled shoes.

As more and more women chose careers over homemaking, marriages were delayed and the birthrate plummeted. Economic independence led many dissatisfied women to dissolve unhappy marriages, leading to a skyrocketing divorce rate.

The Equal Rights Amendment

“*Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*” This simple sentence comprised Section 1 of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which had first been proposed in Congress by the National Women’s Party in 1923. Feminists of the

late 1960s and early 1970s viewed ratification of the amendment as the only clear-cut way to eliminate all legal gender-based discrimination in the United States.

Amending the Constitution is a two-step process. First, Congress must propose the amendment by a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate. After proposal, it must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures. Organizations like the National Organization of Women (NOW) began a hard push for the ERA in 1970.

Leaders such as Gloria Steinem addressed the legislature and provided argument after argument in support of the ERA. The House approved the measure in 1970, and the Senate did likewise in 1972. The fight was then taken to the states. ERA-supporters had the early momentum. Public opinion polls showed strong favorable support. Thirty of the necessary thirty-eight states ratified the amendment by 1973.

But then the tide turned as a determined opposition rose up pointing out the dangers of such an amendment. The leader of the Stop-ERA campaign was Phyllis Schlafly, who argued that the ERA would bring many undesirable changes to American culture and denigration of the traditional roles many women preferred.

The counter-movement pointed out that protective laws concerning sexual assault and alimony would be swept away. The tendency for the mother to receive child custody in a divorce case would be eliminated. One of the greatest concerns was that the all-male military draft would become immediately unconstitutional.

Stop-ERA advocates baked apple pies for the Illinois legislature while they debated the amendment. They hung “Don’t draft me” signs on baby girls. Their efforts

succeeded in bringing recognition to the pitfalls inherent in such sweeping legislation. After 1973, the number of ratifying states slowed to a trickle. By 1982, the year of expiration, only 35 states had voted in favor of the ERA—three states shy of the necessary total.



Phyllis Schlafly was perhaps the most visible opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment. Her “Stop ERA” campaign warned that the ERA would eliminate laws designed to protect women.

Roe v. Wade and Its Impact

No topic related to the feminist movement has aroused such passion and controversy as much as abortion. In the 1960s, there was no federal law regulating abortions, and many states had banned the practice entirely, except when the life of the mother was endangered.

Abortion rights supporters argued that illegality led many women to seek black market abortions by unlicensed physicians or to perform the procedure on themselves.

As a result, several states such as California and New York began to legalize abortions. With no definitive ruling from the federal government, abortion rights advocates sought the support of the United States Supreme Court.

The battle began in Texas, which outlawed any type of abortion unless a doctor determined that the mother's life was in danger. The anonymous Jane Roe challenged the Texas law, and the *Roe v. Wade* case slowly made its way to the highest court in the land.

After two years of hearing evidence, the Court invalidated the Texas law by a 7-2 vote. The majority of the justices maintained that a right to privacy implied by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment granted a woman the legal right to have an abortion, but this right was to be balanced against the interests of protecting prenatal life and women's health. To resolve this issue, the point where state law could intervene was initially placed at the end of the first three months, or trimester, of a pregnancy. Any state law that conflicted with this ruling was automatically overturned.

The Court later rejected the trimester framework and shifted the legal time frame out further, to the point of "viability," defined as "potentially able to live outside the mother's womb, albeit with artificial aid."

Abortion rights supporters were ecstatic at the *Roe* ruling. But immediately an opposition emerged. The Roman Catholic Church viewed abortion as infanticide. Many Protestant ministers joined the outcry. The National Right to Life Committee formed with the goal of reversing *Roe v. Wade*.

The issue is fundamentally thorny because it involves basic faiths. Those who believe life begins at conception insist that the unborn child is entitled to the same legal protections as an adult, and that ending such a life is murder. Others argue that life begins at birth, and that laws restricting abortion interfere with the right of a woman to decide what is in her own best interests. Opponents of abortion use the label "pro-life" to define their cause. Supporters of *Roe v. Wade* identify themselves as "pro-choice."

Since 1973, the battle has raged. Pro-life groups began to lobby their senators and representatives to propose a Right-to-Life Amendment to the Constitution. Although introduced in Congress, the measure has never received the necessary support.

The Hyde Amendment of 1976 prohibits the use of federal Medicaid funds to be used for abortions. Later Supreme Court decisions such as *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992) have upheld the right of states to impose waiting periods and parental notification requirements. President George Bush imposed a "gag rule" that prohibited workers in federally funded clinics from even mentioning abortion as an option with their patients. Bill Clinton ended the gag rule in 1993.

The fate of *Roe v. Wade* continues to lie with the Supreme Court, and the composition of the Court changes with every retirement. Activists on each side demand a "litmus test" for any justice named to the federal courts. Republicans have tended to appoint pro-life judges, and Democrats have selected pro-choice nominees.

At the dawn of the 21st century, the battle remains as fierce as ever.

Lesson Two

History Overview and Assignments More Demands for Change

Latino Americans and Native Americans had also languished in the bottom economic strata throughout much of the prosperous 1950s. Leaders organized efforts to close this gap. By the end of the decade, the gay rights movement also began to demand acceptance of their lifestyle practices. The politics of identity dominated America as these and other groups found their voices of protest. Another battle cry was sounded against pollution, and the environmental movement was born.



The early 1970s saw a series of public service announcements designed to increase public awareness of environmental issues. One of the most memorable images from the campaign featured Iron Eyes Cody shedding a profound tear in response to widespread pollution.

Reading and Assignments

- Review the discussion then read the article: *More Demands for Change*.
- Narrate about today's reading using the appropriate notebook page. Be sure to answer the discussion questions and include key people, events, and dates within the narration.
- Visit www.ArtiosHCS.com for additional resources.

Key People, Places, and Events

Wilderness Protection Act
Water Quality Act
Air Quality Act
Greenpeace
Environmental Protection Agency
Cesar Chavez
United Farm Workers
American Indian Movement

Discussion Questions

1. What were the purposes and intent behind the Wilderness Protection Act, the Water Quality Act and the Air Quality Act?
2. Who created the Environmental Protection Agency, and why was it created?
3. What are some of the dangers of government regulation?
4. What other groups demanded reforms?
5. How did Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers handle their desire for reform?
6. How did the American Indian Movement handle their desire for reform?

U.S. History Online Textbook

source: ushistory.org

More Demands for Change

Environmental Reform

By the 1960s a century of full-fledged industrialism in America had taken its toll on the environment. Concerned citizens began to appeal in earnest for protection of more of the nation's wilderness areas. Emissions into the atmosphere were creating smoggy haze above many metropolitan centers. Trash was piling up. Many Americans felt free to deposit waste from their increasingly disposable society along the sides of the roads. In the climate of social activism, the 1960s also became a decade of earth action.

Rachel Carson sent a wake-up call to America with her 1962 book *Silent Spring*. Carson wrote of the horrors of DDT, a popular pesticide used on many American farms. DDT wrought havoc on the nation's bird population. The pesticide, when ingested by birds, proved poisonous. Carson then witnessed a spring where birds did not return to farms.

The book created a firestorm of concern for the environment. Many students involved in the peace and civil rights movements also embraced the call for environmental awareness, and organizations sprang up demanding regulation of polluting industries and activities. President Johnson responded with the Wilderness Protection Act, the Water Quality Act, and the Air Quality Act. An activist organization named Greenpeace formed in 1969.

In 1970, Johnson signed legislation creating the Environmental Protection

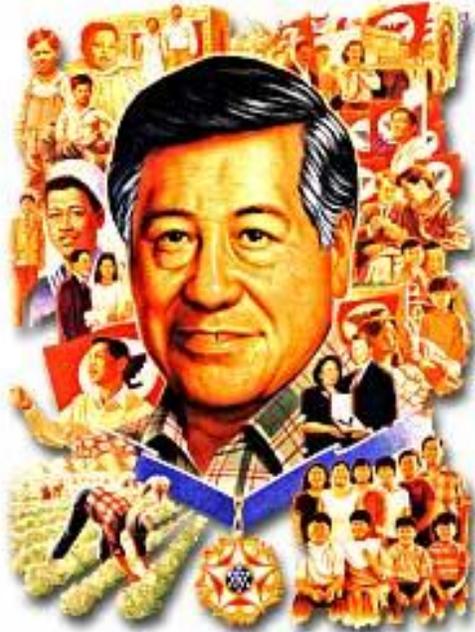
Agency, a federal watchdog dedicated to proper care of the planet. He also stiffened standards for emissions and waste with the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. The Endangered Species Act also provided much needed protection to wildlife on the brink of annihilation.



Hoping to inspire the younger generation to take better care of the environment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service created "Woodsy Owl" in 1970. Woodsy's original request of "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute" has been updated to "Lend a Hand—Care for the Land!"

While these initiatives have made some strides in addressing ongoing pollution, many warn against the trend toward excessive governmental control spurred on by every increase in regulation. Such regulation often has far-reaching consequences. For example, when industrial demand for highly polluting coal shifted to oil, increased drilling and pipelining strained America's oil resources while raising even more environmental outcry, leading to a dependence on volatile

nations for much of the country's energy supply.



Cesar Chavez used tactics similar to those used by Martin Luther King, Jr. in his attempts to improve working conditions for migrant farm workers in the American Southwest. Hunger strikes and boycotts—combined with his creation of the United Farm Workers Union—brought much needed change.

Others Demand Equality

The 1960s broadened the traditional definition of civil rights, as the politics of identity exploded in the United States. As African Americans and women demanded much needed reforms, other groups who felt on the margins of American society organized as well. The climate was conducive to change, and many felt the need to seize the moment.

Mexican-Americans, or Chicanos, were steadily growing in population in the American Southwest throughout the twentieth century. In 1965, Cesar Chavez led a strike on behalf of the migrant farm workers in California. Chavez used the strategies of Martin Luther King to reach his goals of higher pay and better working conditions. In addition to the strike, he

organized the United Farm Workers union and launched a nationwide boycott of grapes to support his cause. Responding to the mistreatment of union members in the fields, Chavez commenced a three-week hunger strike to receive national attention. When the grape growers recognized his union in 1970, his efforts were considered successful.



The American Indian Movement grabbed America's attention through brash stunts. One such action was the seizure of Alcatraz Island and the subsequent offer to the U.S. government to buy back the land for the same small sum that settlers offered to Native Americans for Manhattan Island in 1626.

As politics became more radicalized, a “Red Power” movement emerged in Native American communities, striving for greater rights and protesting the failure of the U.S. government to fulfill treaties with the Native American peoples. In urban Native American ghettos across the Midwest, the American Indian Movement (AIM) took shape. Members of AIM were tired of working through a system they believed was the primary reason many Native Americans lived in dire poverty. They chose attention-grabbing stunts as the means to draw attention to their cause.

In 1969, members of AIM seized Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. AIM members offered the United States government an amount equivalent to the value of the trinkets Peter Minuit paid to the inhabitants of Manhattan Island in 1626. For nineteen months the occupation forces held firm. In 1972, AIM protesters occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, DC. In another effort to increase recognition, the final battle of the war for the Great Plains was re-enacted in 1973 when members of AIM seized the town of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. After a seventy-one day holdout, the siege collapsed.

Identity politics flared as well among those seeking legally mandated cultural acceptance—and even approval—of homosexual lifestyles. Judeo-Christians and certain other religious groups consider homosexual activities immoral. The match that lit the flame for the “gay rights” movement was when New York City police officers raided the Stonewall Inn in May 1969. The Greenwich Village tavern, run by members of an organized crime group, made frequent payoffs to encourage ignorance of their lack of a liquor license (among numerous other violations). Police raids were common, but this time the bar patrons fought back, hurling rocks, fists, and insults at the police. On the one year

anniversary of the Stonewall Riot, the first gay rights parade was staged in New York City.



In June 1969, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn for operating without a liquor license. Hundreds of homosexual patrons—feeling the Inn had been singled out because of its homosexual clientele—reacted with riots and protests that lasted several days.

The movement gained ground over the following years, viewed by many as a struggle for freedom from oppression. Others counter that demand for approval of activity they consider immoral is not justifiable like demands for ethnic equality, and warn against legal mandates regarding personal and public opinion—along with prohibitions against offers of caring help toward change. The First Amendment to the Constitution states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.”