

A TIME OF REFORM

The early 1900s were a time of reform in the United States. There were many great things about the country, but there were some problems, as well. A group of people who wanted to make changes during this time were called progressives. Many of the city and state governments were corrupt and dishonest. The progressives wanted to change their leaders.

Theodore Roosevelt, who was vice president at the time, was one of the leaders of this reform. He worked with others to change the type of people that were elected to office. They were successful. Led by new leaders, many cities were able to pass new laws that made life better. These cities built schools, parks, and playgrounds. They also built better housing for families.

State governments also worked for change. They passed laws that made large companies pay their fair share of taxes. They put limits on the amount of money they could charge customers for things. With these new changes, the quality of life continued to improve for people.

Theodore Roosevelt eventually became president of the United States upon the assassination of President William McKinley. He continued to work for changes and improvements.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. Based on the passage, what were some of the problems in the country during the early 1900s?
 - a. Too many people wanted to be president.
 - b. There were not enough jobs for people.
 - c. There were dishonest people in leadership positions.
 - d. Large companies were not allowed to charge a fair price for goods.
2. What conclusions can be drawn about the people that wanted reform?
 - a. They were corrupt and dishonest.
 - b. They were hard workers that believed in making changes.
 - c. They were inexperienced factory workers.
 - d. They weren't very organized.
3. After reading the passage, which of the following statements about the progressives is false?
 - a. They were the only ones elected to public office.
 - b. They were interested in making life in the United States better.
 - c. They were willing to work hard to build schools, parks, and better housing.
 - d. They were interested in changing their leaders in city and state office



Name _____

Date _____

CHANGES FOR WOMEN

You may be surprised to learn that it took until the 1920s for women in the United States to have the right to vote. Voting wasn't the only change for women during this time. By 1900, women had made a lot of progress. More and more young women were graduating from high school. More young women were also going to college.

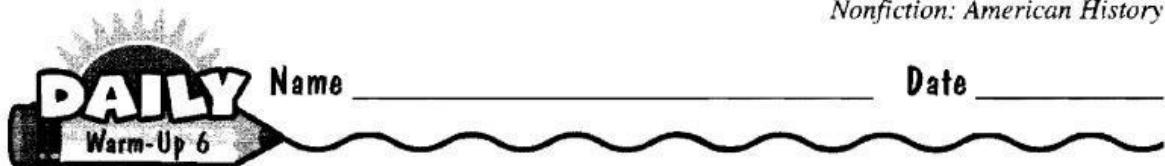
In most states, women were beginning to be allowed to own property and keep the money they earned at their jobs. Before then, only the husband could do these things. Anything the wife earned belonged to her husband.

More and more women began working outside of the home. Most of the jobs available were separated into "men's jobs" and "women's jobs." Most women worked as teachers, nurses, librarians, secretaries, factory workers, and telephone operators. Men were the only ones allowed to be doctors, lawyers, bankers, police officers, and mail carriers.

Sweeping changes were still needed. Women continued to fight for the right to work at whatever profession they wanted. Women demanded the same pay that men got. These changes were difficult to make happen. It took many more years. In fact, women today are still working for some of these same things.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be the best title for this reading passage?
 - a. "Mr. Mom"
 - b. "Sweeping Changes for Women"
 - c. "Women's Suffrage"
 - d. "The Right to Work"
2. What conclusions can be drawn about what resulted from these changes?
 - a. Women were considered illiterate.
 - b. Women were given more respect for their abilities.
 - c. Men were upset with the changes.
 - d. Women were given these rights only if they worked harder.
3. Which statement from the passage explains what limitations women still had after they began working outside the home?
 - a. They were inspired to go back to school.
 - b. More young women were also going to college.
 - c. Women were not allowed to hold the same jobs as men.
 - d. Women were not given the right to vote if they worked outside of the home.



MOVING TO THE CITY

Most of the early immigrants came to America to get land and begin farming for a living. But during the late 1800s, it became hard for farmers to make enough money to live. Many of the farmers were forced to give up their farms and move their families to the city in search of jobs. Some farmers left their farms and came to the city to get away from the long hours and loneliness of the farm.

There were different types of jobs available in the city. The city had factories that were being built all over. Women were also able to find jobs in the city.

Living in the city was also exciting. There were many different things to do. The city had museums, theaters, sports, and concert halls. Cities had lots of shopping available. There were stores of all kinds and sizes. Even if you didn't have enough money, window shopping was a favorite pastime. The city had many new opportunities.

The city also had many other resources, such as good schools and teachers. You could also get better medical attention living in the city. Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals were available in the city. More and more people moved to the cities during this time in American history.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be a good title for this reading passage?
 - a. "The National Pastime"
 - b. "The Lure of the City"
 - c. "The Life of a Former Farmer"
 - d. "The Big Apple"
2. Which paragraphs explain what the city had to offer?
 - a. first and second
 - b. third and fourth
 - c. second and third
 - d. the last three paragraphs
3. Locate the statement below that is not a fact.
 - a. There were stores of all kinds and sizes.
 - b. Doctors, lawyers, and other professionals were available in the city.
 - c. Living in the city was also exciting.
 - d. The city had museums, theaters, sports, and concert halls.
4. In this passage, the word *pastime* means . . .
 - a. history.
 - b. you are late.
 - c. a way to spend your time.
 - d. long overdue.



Name _____

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BATTLE FOR THE ALAMO

In the 1830s, more and more people from Texas were upset with Mexico. They didn't like the way Mexico was ruling Texas. Texans were beginning to talk about seeking independence from Mexico.

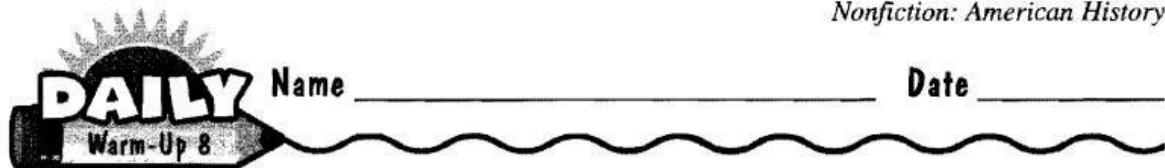
A general from Mexico decided to stop the Texans from making plans to get their independence. His name was Santa Anna. He led an army of 4,000 soldiers to stop the Texans. A group of Texans in San Antonio was attacked. They went to the Alamo for safety. The Alamo was a Spanish mission that had been left empty.

But the Mexican army continued its attack. After 12 days of fighting, the Texans, who were far fewer in number than the Mexicans, ran out of bullets. The Mexican soldiers began climbing the walls. A battle took place inside. Soldiers fought hand to hand. Over 1,500 Mexican soldiers were killed. All but seven of the Texans were killed, and Mexico took back control.

Though they lost, this battle helped the Texans eventually gain their independence and led to the inspirational cry, "Remember the Alamo!"

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was the purpose for the Texans going to the Alamo?
 - a. The Alamo was a Spanish mission that had been left empty.
 - b. A group of Texans in San Antonio was attacked.
 - c. He led an army of 4,000 soldiers to stop the Texans.
 - d. They went to the Alamo for safety.
2. Identify a supporting detail that explains the statement, "A battle took place inside the Alamo."
 - a. They went to the Alamo for safety.
 - b. The Alamo was a Spanish mission that had been left empty.
 - c. Texans were beginning to talk about seeking independence from Mexico.
 - d. Over 1,500 Mexican soldiers were killed.
3. After reading the passage, which question couldn't you answer about the Battle for the Alamo?
 - a. Who was Santa Anna and for what was he known?
 - b. Who were the Texans that were attacked?
 - c. What happened after the attack on the Alamo?
 - d. How many Mexican soldiers were killed in the Alamo?



THE QUAKERS

One of the religious groups that immigrated to America was the Quakers. They were also known as the "Society of Friends." The name "Quaker" came from the belief that they thought everyone—even leaders of countries and kings—should "quake" with fear before God.

The Quakers worshipped in a very simple manner. There were no priests or ministers. They believed all people were equal before God. They believed that people should not fight in any wars and they refused to fight in any wars. They believed that all problems could be solved between two countries without any fighting.

The Quakers were not treated very well in England. That was why they left for America. In America, they hoped they would be treated better. Things were not much better in America. They tried to settle in Massachusetts, but they were asked to leave.

William Penn was a Quaker who was able to get land in America from the King of England. This land was named Pennsylvania, which means "Penn's woods." Pennsylvania was set up as a religious experiment. Penn invited religious groups from all over to move to Pennsylvania.



STORY QUESTIONS

1. A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
 - a. "The Coming of the Quakers."
 - b. "Religion in America."
 - c. "Biography of William Penn."
 - d. "Pennsylvania Becomes a State."
2. What caused the Quakers to leave England?
 - a. The Quakers were forced to leave England.
 - b. The Quakers were not allowed to own land in England.
 - c. The Quakers were not treated well in England.
 - d. The Quakers were not able to convert very many people in England.
3. The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - a. justify the Quaker religion.
 - b. inform the reader of how Quakers were mistreated in England.
 - c. share general information about Massachusetts and the Quakers.
 - d. explain the story of the Quakers in America.