Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Author/Compiler: Olivia DiSanto, Brady, Emma Miller

Suggested Age Group: 6-12th Grade

Lessons/Themes: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Women's Suffrage, Suffragists

Topic Overview:

This lesson plan details the life and works of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. It includes several informative videos, as well as group activities to spark discussion on how students can continue to make change in their community. The main activity revolves around creating a Declaration of Sentiments, similar to the one created by suffragists. By modeling their own Declaration of Sentiments off of the document created by suffrage activists, students will begin to think about what they can do to promote change and support equity in their community.
For More Information, Please Reach out:
Eron Demercy,
edemercy@rmsc.org
Bio:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born November 12th, 1815 in Johnstown, NY. She was provided with great home education in her early life, then went to Johnstown Academy and continued her education, and graduated from Emma Willard’s Troy Female Seminary in 1832. She married Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840. Similarly, Henry was an abolitionist and lawyer as well. Elizabeth was also known as an abolitionist and a women's rights activist as she led many movements pertaining to women’s suffrage in her lifetime. This would include Stanton's involvement in the first women's rights movement that was held in Seneca Falls, New York. One of her biggest accomplishments was crafted at a women's rights meeting on July 19-20th 1848 in Rochester, NY. At this convection, she introduced her idea of the Declaration of Sentiment which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. This is due to her strong belief in the rights of all individuals regardless of race and gender. The Declaration of Independence detailed the status of the inferiority of women, in her declaration she called for change and ultimately launched the American Women’s Rights Movement. In 1869, Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Women’s rights association. Throughout the duration of her career, she would work alongside other notable changemakers such as William Lloyd Garrison, Susan B. Anthony, and Angelina Grimke.

Instructions

1. Go through slides beginning with the question prompts.

2. Students will brainstorm with their classmates ideas they think would be important to put onto a declaration regarding equality and social justice.

3. Educators / leaders will decide based on the age and learning ability of their students should make a class, group or solo declaration of sentiments.

4. Once the decision of how the project will be constructed students will get to choose from many supplies and materials to create their own Declaration of Sentiments (they can either create their own unique version or use the template provided).

5. Share ideas amongst the class with one another so that they can understand the different and similar ideas they may have with their peers.
Defining important terms:

**Women’s rights** - The rights claimed for women in America as well as worldwide

**Women’s suffrage** - The right of women to vote in elections

**Social Justice** - The distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privilege in a society

**Declaration of Sentiments** - Document outlining that women in America should have equal rights

**Changemaker** - Someone who takes creative action to help solve a social problem

**National Women’s Rights Association** - Organization was formed to help work towards gaining women's rights

**Activist** - Someone who strives for political and social change

**13th Amendment** - The Amendment that banned slavery in America

**Abolitionist** - Someone whose goal is to end slavery

**Equality** - Being equal to others with having the same status, rights, and opportunities

**Equity** - Fairness and Justice, it means recognizing that we do not all start at the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalance

**Human rights** - Rights that are inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status

**Declaration of Independence** - The founding document of the United States, declares its independence from Britain
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born November 12th, 1815 in Johnstown NY. She was provided with great home education in her early life, then went to Johnstown Academy and continued her education, and graduated from Emma Willard’s Troy Female Seminary in 1832. She married Henry Brewster Stanton in 1840. Similarly, Henry was an abolitionist and lawyer as well. Elizabeth was also known as an abolitionist and a women's rights activist as she led many movements pertaining to women’s suffrage in her lifetime. This would include Stanton's involvement in the first women's rights movement that was held in Seneca Falls, New York. One of her biggest accomplishments was crafted at a women's rights meeting on July 19-20th 1848 in Rochester, NY. At this convection, she introduced her idea of the Declaration of Sentiment which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. This is due to her strong belief in the rights of all individuals regardless of race and gender. The Declaration of Independence detailed the status of the inferiority of women, in her declaration she called for change and ultimately launched the American Women's Rights Movement. In 1869 Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Women’s rights association. Throughout the duration of her career, she would work alongside other notable changemakers such as William Lloyd Garrison, Susan B. Anthony, and Angelina Grimke.
PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to be changemaker?
2. What is something you see needing change in the world we live in today?
3. What steps would you take to create change in your community?
Declaration of Sentiments

The Declaration of Sentiments was a document signed at the first woman's rights convention in 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York. This declaration was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and demanded that all citizens of the U.S. are granted their natural rights.
Important terms:

**Women’s rights** - The rights claimed for women in America as well as worldwide

**Women’s suffrage** - The right of women to vote in elections

**Social Justice** - The distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privilege in a society

**Declaration of Sentiments** - Document outlining that women in America should have equal rights

**Changemaker** - Someone who takes creative action to help solve a social problem

**National Women’s Rights Association** - Organization was formed to help work towards gaining women's rights

**Activist** - Someone who strives for political and social change
Important terms:

13th Amendment - The Amendment that banned slavery in America

Abolitionist - Someone whose goal is to end slavery

Equality - Being equal to others with having the same status, rights, and opportunities

Equity - Fairness and Justice, it means recognizing that we do not all start at the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalance

Human rights - Rights that are inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status

Declaration of Independence - The founding document of the United States, declares its independence from Britain
Project Instructions

1. Go through slides

2. Students will brainstorm with their classmates ideas they think would be important to put onto a declaration regarding equality and social justice.

3. Educators/leaders will decide based on the age and learning ability of their students should make a class, group or solo declaration of sentiments.

4. Once the decision of how the project will be constructed students will get to choose from many supplies and materials to create their own Declaration of Sentiments (they can either create their own unique version or use the template provided).

5. Answer discussion questions and share ideas amongst the class with one another so that they can understand the different and similar ideas they may have with their peers.
Discussion Questions

1. Why was Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s movement important?
2. Are there any current changemakers that reflect the efforts done by Stanton?
3. If you could add something to the Declaration of Sentiments, what would it be?
4. Looking at society today, do you think that Stanton’s actions have had a lasting impact on women’s rights? Is there more that needs to be done? If so, what?
Works Cited