

# U.S. HISTORY STUDY GUIDE

## CHAPTER 8: RELIGION AND REFORM, 1812-1860

### GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE (YOUR OBJECTIVES FOR THIS CHAPTER):

#### **SSUSH7 Investigate political, economic, and social developments during the Age of Jackson.**

- c. Explain the influence of the Second Great Awakening on social reform movements, including temperance, public education, and women's efforts to gain suffrage.
- d. Explain how the significance of slavery grew in American politics including slave rebellions and the rise of abolitionism.

### KEY TERMS AND NAMES: DEFINE IN MEANINGFUL TERMS ON SEPARATE PAPER

**abolition movement** advocates of an immediate end to slavery  
**Amelia Bloomer** women's rights advocate and publisher of *The Lily*

**American Colonization Society** organization created in 1816 to facilitate the migration of free American blacks to Africa

**Angelina and Sarah Grimke** South Carolina sisters who moved north to promote the abolitionist movement

**Charles Grandison Finney** a preacher of the Second Great Awakening

**Denmark Vesey** former slave executed for plotting a slave revolt in Charleston, SC

**Dorothea Dix** a reformer who worked to improve conditions for the mentally ill and prisoners

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton** woman reformer in the antislavery movement who helped organize the first women's rights convention  
**evangelical** style of worship meant to elicit powerful emotions to gain converts

**Frederick Douglass** an African American abolitionist and founder of the antislavery newspaper, the *North Star*

**freedman** person liberated from slavery

**Gag Rule** ban on debates over slavery in Congress (1836-1844)

**gradualism** an approach to end slavery slowly in several stages

**Henry David Thoreau** Transcendentalist author of "Civil Disobedience" who argued one must be true to oneself even if that means breaking laws

**Horace Mann** foremost leader of the public education movement during the 1830s through 1850s

**Joseph Smith** founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

**Lucretia Mott** woman reformer in the antislavery movement who helped organize the first women's rights convention

**Married Women's Property Act** 1848 New York state law guaranteeing certain property rights for women

**matrilineal** inheritance passed down through female family lines  
**Mormon** member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

**Nat Turner** leader executed for planning and carrying out an 1831 slave revolt in Virginia

**Neal Dow** temperance reformer and mayor of Portland, Maine; noted for law restricting alcohol sales

**penitentiary movement** movement to structure prisons so that prisoners would feel penitent for their crimes

**public school movement** movement to provide greater educational opportunities via tax-supported free public schools

**Ralph Waldo Emerson** Transcendentalist author of "Nature" who stressed optimism and self-reliance, and appreciation for nature

**revivalist** preacher who works to re-energize religion

**Second Great Awakening** a movement in the early 1800s to revive Americans' commitment to religion

**Seneca Falls Convention** 1848 meeting considered to be the start of the women's suffrage movement

**Sojourner Truth** storyteller and former slave noted for spell-binding speeches attacking slavery

**suffrage** the right to vote

**temperance movement** effort to end or reduce the consumption of alcohol

**transcendentalist** one who searches for spiritual reality through nature and consciousness of the self

**Unitarian** religion based on the belief that God is a single divine being rather than a trinity

**utopian community** settlement established with the goal of moral perfection

**William Lloyd Garrison** an abolitionist and founder of the antislavery newspaper, the *Liberator*

**women's movement** movement beginning in the U.S. during the mid-1800s seeking greater rights and opportunities for women

### KEY THEMES, CONCEPTS, AND EVENTS

- **The Second Great Awakening and Religious Expansion:** revivalism, Unitarians, Universalists, Mormons
- **Emergence of American reform movements**
  - prison reform and Dorothea Dix
  - women's rights and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
  - education reform and Horace Mann
- **Growth of the abolitionist movement**
  - gradualism, colonization, and abolition
  - Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, the Grimke sisters & William Lloyd Garrison
  - temperance & the American Temperance Union
  - anti-slavery/abolitionist movements
  - reaction and response to the abolition movement

### SUMMARY

By the early 1800s, the United States was well established as an independent, growing country. Many decided that the best future for the United States was one in which its citizens embraced religion. A spirit of reform permeated American life in the early and middle 1800s. During the mid-1800s, reformers tried to improve life through campaigns to help children, families, and disadvantaged adults. Soon, reformers also set out to help another group of exploited people: enslaved African Americans in the South. Women took active roles in the abolition movement and other reform movements. Soon, some of these reformers began to work to gain equality for women as well. Their efforts would lay the groundwork for women's struggle for equal rights over the next hundred years.

### SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS: ANSWER IN THREE TO FIVE PARAGRAPHS

1. Explain the Second Great Awakening and discuss it in terms of its significance in United States history.

2. What was the abolition movement? When and why did it come about? What arguments did these reformers give to support their position?
3. Why did some Northerners who disapproved of slavery oppose extreme abolitionism?
4. What was the temperance movement? When and why did it come about? What arguments did these reformers give to support their position?
5. Discuss educational reforms and advances during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in terms of who, what, when, where, why and how.
6. What was the women's movement? When and why did it come about? What arguments did these reformers give to support their position?