***Reformers of the Early Nineteenth Century Antebellum Speed Dating Activity***

**Antebellum Reform period:** The years between 1820 and 1860 in the United States can be described as a long era of reform, marked by strong desire to change individuals and society as a whole. The movements that arose during this period focused on specific issues including: temperance, abolitionism, changes in incarceration, rights of women and workers, and establishing social welfare agencies and public schools.

**HTS: Causation** - Compare cause and/or effects, both short-term and long-term effects

**Essential Question: To what extent did the Antebellum reformers represent a new era in American history?**

In this activity, you will evaluate various reformers in the Jacksonian Period or Antebellum Era to determine to what extent the Jackson Era mark a significant change from previous period in American History. In this way, you will analyze the historical model of seeing the Antebellum Era as a separate period from the New Republic.

Homework/Classwork: You have been assigned a reformer. Complete the portion of the chart attached for your assigned reformer.

**Speed Dating Procedure:**

Once you have become an expert on your reformer, you will be paired with other reformers to “meet” them in a speed dating fashion. The focus of this meeting is to determine if the other reformers are a “match” for you.

1. Consider whether they have a similar philosophy, goal, world view, or accomplishment. Take notes about what you learn about each of the reformers in your chart.
2. You should interact as your reformer. Have fun and embrace your character. At the same time, do not sacrifice content and evidence. You will need it for the next part of the activity.
3. You will get approximately 3 minutes for each round of speed dating. After 3 minutes, you must move on to the next round. We will continue with “speed dating” rounds until each student/reformer has met all the reformers in the room.
4. Once you have “met” all the reformers, choose the TWO reformers that are your best match and the TWO that you are least compatible with. You will then plan separate dates for each. In your planned dates, be sure to note WHY you came to your determination, including specific evidence.
5. You will turn in a) dating profile, b) research from library time, c) Notecard (see below), d) reformer chart (you’ll turn it in with your packet)

# Tips for Speed Dating

Select your persona from the list in classroom.

Complete the form about your person. Bring to Speed Date completed to turn in.

Fill out a note card (notecard should include a short summary of who you are (see example) and two questions you will ask your date)

This note card will help you in your speed dating. This note card write up is what you might want to say during your speed date. Pretend you are nervous and need a prompter.

# Here is an example: Plato

*I came with my friend and fellow Greek, Aristotle. We are the old guys in the room. The concept of the speed date is an excellent one. Seeking knowledge, using logic and reason, these ideas were taught to me by my teacher Socrates. He would be happy to see these thinkers doing the same thing. I know that there has been a lot of talk about education. I agree that all should be educated. But I believe the main purpose of education is to be a good citizen. I know that Greece is the birthplace of democracy, but I am not a fan of this form of government. I think it is just chaos. No the best kind of rule is by someone very intelligent, like a philosopher king.*

* 1. Make/find a prop that signifies your character.
  2. In class you will speed date other people of the Jackson Era/Antebellum Period. You may or may not like them. Your goal is to find a “match”, folks you can advance a society with.
  3. Rules for the speed date:
     1. Be ready and prepared - know who you are
     2. Be in character the whole time
     3. Bring your prop
     4. Ask questions - give answers
     5. Get to know the other person
     6. Complete the notes chart with information on the people you meet
     7. Learn something - find your ‘match’
     8. HAVE FUN

**Possible People**

* Ann Lee Stanley (Mother Lee)
* John Humphrey Noyes
* Brigham Young
* Mary Lyon
* Charles Finney
* Joseph Smith
* Richard Allen
* Robert Owen
* Lyman Beecher
* Neal Dow
* T.S. Arthur
* Margaret Fuller
* Henry David Thoreau
* Ralph Waldo Emerson
* Emma Willard
* Sarah Grimke
* Lucretia Mott
* Catherine Beecher
* Elizabeth Cady Stanton
* Susan B. Anthony
* Lucy Stone
* Amelia Bloomer
* Elizabeth Blackwell
* William Lloyd Garrison
* David Walker
* Angelina Grimke
* Harriet Jacobs
* Elijah Lovejoy
* Frederick Douglass
* Lydia Maria Child
* Mother Jones
* Harriet Tubman
* Sojourner Truth
* Solomon Northrup
* Maria Stewart
* Harriet Beecher Stowe
* John Humphrey Noyes
* George Ripley
* Dorothea Dix (prison and asylum reform)
* Horace Mann (education)
* Sylvester Graham (Health & Diet)
* Sarah Bagley (Labor issues)
* Noah Webster (Education)
* Emma Willard (Education)

Name: Period :

# Antebellum/Jackson Era Reformers Speed-Dating

Who am I:

Insert a picture of me here:

How do I pronounce my name:

When was I born:

Where was I born:

When and how did I die:

What was my role in the mid-19th Century? Politician, professional, slave, author, teacher, journalists….etc

Was I social, economic, or political reformer? (or other?) What are my GOALS?

What were my political beliefs?

Who were my close allies? Why?

What is (are) my major contributions to this era (this will be extensive here): Legislation, Publications, Est. Organizations…etc.

What is an interesting, strange, unusual or little-known fact about me: What detail(s) of my work made me an interesting historical figure?

What criticism of American society did the individual have?

What methods did I use to improve American life?

What success did I have in promoting reform?

What lasting impact did my reforms have on American society?

Ideas for props/artifacts to bring to speed dating (something significant that would represent you as a person) :

# Speed Dating Questionnaire Name:

1. Who founded the AME church?
2. What two people were most associated with the Seneca Falls Convention?
3. Who was the founder of Transcendentalism?
4. Who was the protégé of Emerson?
5. What is an abolitionist?
6. Who was one of the first prominent African-American abolitionists?
7. Who was most associated with the women’s suffrage movement? (hint: she’s on a coin)
8. African-American women who is most known for speaking out against slavery and for women’s suffrage?
9. Who led the charge for prison reform and mental health reform?
10. Which woman was associated with the transcendentalist movement?
11. Who practiced and wrote about the idea of Civil Disobedience?
12. Who was the founder of the Mormon religion?
13. Who brought the Mormons to Utah?
14. Who published the Liberator?
15. Who published the North Star newspaper?
16. Who was a prominent advocate for public education reform?
17. Who spoke out about health eating and hygiene?
18. Who is most associated with the Second Great Awakening?
19. Who was the most well-known advocate for the temperance movement?
20. Who was the founder of the Shaker religion?
21. Who wrote “An appeal to the coloured citizens of the world”?
22. Who was the founder of the Oneida community?
23. Who opened and operated the Brook Farm community?
24. Who established Mount Holyoke Seminary?
25. What do transcendentalist believe?
26. What document was established at the Seneca Falls Convention?
27. What is temperance?
28. What is the cult of domesticity?
29. Who was the founder of the American Anti-Slavery Society?
30. What is the burned over district?

# In the following section write down anyone associated with the relevant groups:

Name prominent abolitionists.

Name prominent women’s rights advocates.

Name prominent utopian groups from the era.

Name religions or churches that got their start during this era.

Name people who opened schools during this era.

**Activity Wrap-Up**

* When you go home, you will reflect upon these reformers’ place in early 19th century history, and write a reflection (1 page reflection) incorporating answers to the following questions:
  + List several evils that the reformers (as a whole) of the period 1820-1860 tried to eliminate.
  + What factors created a climate favorable to reform in the early nineteenth century?
  + What common vision of a better world did these individuals have?
  + Would you characterize these individuals as idealists or practical reformers? Explain your reasoning.
  + Which **ONE reformer you feel had the most success and the greatest impact on antebellum society.** Be prepared to defend your thoughts in your reflection.