Timeline Challenge

Americans in the Mid-1800s

1793 Invention of the Cotton Gin
Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin. Cotton becomes the most profitable cash crop in the South and transforms the South’s economy and society.

1800 –1840 Second Great Awakening
The nation experiences a revival of religious feeling that inspires many Americans to work for the improvement of society.

1806 Congress Approves National Road
Congress authorizes the building of the National Road. By 1841, the road extends from Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia, Illinois.

1817 Work Begins on the Erie Canal
Completed in 1825, the Erie Canal provides the first all-water link between farms on the Central Plains and East Coast cities.

1820 –1870 The Industrial Revolution
The United States undergoes an Industrial Revolution, which results in the growth of industry, urbanization, and a more modern transportation system.

1831 Founding of The Liberator
William Lloyd Garrison starts the abolitionist newspaper The Liberator. In its weekly issues, he calls for the immediate freeing of all slaves.

1831 Nat Turner’s Rebellion
Nat Turner leads a slave uprising in Virginia. The rebellion results in the passage of strict slave codes.

1837 Horace Mann Campaigns for Public Schools
Horace Mann becomes the Massachusetts state supervisor of education and calls for the establishment of public schools and increased pay for teachers.

1837 Frederick Douglass Establishes The North Star
Frederick Douglas founds The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper. The newspaper lends support to other reform movements as well.

1847 Harriet Tubman Escapes Slavery
Harriet Tubman escapes from a slave plantation in Maryland. She later guides more than 200 slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

1848 Seneca Falls Convention
The Women’s Rights Convention takes place in Seneca Falls, New York. Many participants sign the Declaration of Sentiments, which demands equal rights for women.

1854 Walden Is Published
Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau publishes Walden, a reflection on the meaning of life, society, nature, and the human spirit.

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1856 Horace Mann Is Appointed Federal Commissioner of Education
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