



Upstate, Downstate: The Women's Movement Discussion Questions

Comprehension

- What rights do women in the United States have today that they did not have in the 1800s?
- What did most men think a woman's role was in the 1800s?
- When did women in New York get the right to vote?
- How did women gain the right the vote? What strategies did they use?

Critical Thinking

- Why did some men think that giving women the right to vote would break up families?
- Why were western states the first to give women the right to vote? *

*Remind students that the western states had much lower populations than eastern states. You can also share that western states had far fewer women than men (see "U.S. Population in 1890" under the Student Handout tab). Some historians think women were given the right to vote in part to generate publicity and entice more women to move west, thus giving those states greater political power, both because of an increased population and the presumed loyalty women would have towards pro-suffrage political parties.

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