

Religion and Reform (1800–1850)



MIDDLE-CLASS REFORM

THE BIG IDEA

Inspired by religion and new ideas, reform movements began battling the country's growing social problems.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Reform Movements of the 1830s and 1840s

Reform Movement	Goal	Impact
Temperance movement	End alcohol consumption	During mid-1800s, alcohol consumption drops sharply
Educational reform	Improve public education	By 1850s, most northern states have free public elementary schools
Prison reform	Improve prison conditions	Many states improve prison conditions and build special hospitals for the mentally ill