

**Analyzing Text: Informational Text**

**Directions** Read the following essay excerpt. Then answer the questions that follow.

*The following article describes a meeting of the World Anti-Slavery Convention and the beginnings of the woman suffrage movement.*

**from "July 20, 1848: The Seneca Falls Convention"**  
**by Christine Stansell**

- 1 Radicals within the antislavery ranks, led by William Lloyd Garrison, backed the many women who demanded a greater role for themselves. At the same time, "gradualists," prominently represented by New York City merchant Lewis Tappan, lined up with the clergy to send the women back home to perform the gentler work (so lauded by American culture) of turning family members and neighbors against slavery through prayer, persuasion, and sweet female influence. A ruckus between these two factions broke out in London at the 1840 meeting of the World Anti-Slavery Convention. There the moderates carried the day after a bitter floor fight. The women members of the American delegation were barred from participating in the proceedings and allowed only to observe the convention from behind a curtain in the meeting hall's balcony.
- 2 Two of the women present were Lucretia Mott, a distinguished middle-aged Quaker preacher, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a young newlywed who had traveled to the London meeting on her honeymoon. The pair had already taken to each other on the voyage over, during which Henry Stanton, already showing signs of a cold and critical nature, reproached his bride for her gaiety in company, her boldness in mixing with the renowned delegates aboard (among them Liberty party presidential candidate James G. Birney), and her fearlessness in professing her views before people who knew much more than she did.

Excerpt from "July 20, 1848: The Seneca Falls Convention" by Christine Stansell from *Days of Destiny: Crossroads in American History*, edited by David Rubel. Text copyright © 2001 by Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Agincourt Press.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. How does Christine Stansell establish the context for the beginning of the women's movement?
- A She introduces the conflict over women's participation in the antislavery movement.
  - B She talks about how women had expected to speak publicly at the antislavery convention.
  - C She discusses men's roles in advancing the rights of women at home in New York.
  - D She compares the role of women in the United States to those in England and France.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. What connection between the events at the World Anti-Slavery Convention and the women's movement does Stansell establish?
- A Stansell connects ideas about the lack of slaves' rights with the lack of women's rights.
  - B Stansell introduces the role of such men as William Lloyd Garrison in the struggle for women's rights.
  - C Stansell connects the convention to the meeting of Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, key players in the women's movement.
  - D Stansell focuses the conflict between Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her husband, Henry, in the context of the convention.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. How does Stansell present Elizabeth Cady Stanton's character?
- A She directly describes Stanton's personality through the way she treats other people at the convention.
  - B She quotes Stanton's own words to establish main aspects of her character.
  - C She shows Stanton's character through descriptions of her role in the women's movement.
  - D She establishes Stanton's character through a description of her actions that are the subject of Henry Stanton's criticism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. How does Stansell support her point of view of Henry Stanton?
- A She tells about his joining the "gradualists" in the debate over women's involvement.
  - B She says he is "cold and critical" and gives examples of his criticism of his wife.
  - C She discusses his opinion of the women's movement and of his wife's friend Mott.
  - D She shares her opinion of him but does not provide support for this opinion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. What do the connotations of the words *gaiety*, *boldness*, and *fearlessness* suggest about Stansell's opinion of Elizabeth Cady Stanton?
- A Their associations with strength and friendliness suggest Stansell has a positive opinion of Stanton.
  - B Their connection to impudence and frivolousness suggest Stansell agrees with Henry Stanton's reproach of his wife.
  - C Their calling to mind of masculine qualities suggests Stansell thinks Stanton should rely more on the "sweet female influence."
  - D Their associations with high society suggest Stansell thinks Stanton is interested in fame, not civil rights.