Museum Of Transcendentalism

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Welcome To Our Museum!

In Our Museum, you will see different exhibits. But here is what you should expect to see:

- An overview history and brief summary of Transcendentalism.
- A quick reference to Romanticism.
- An exhibit of Horace Mann and his reformity.
- A connection of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Walt Whitman’s work to Transcendentalism.
- A summary of Henry David Thoreau’s “Where I Lived and What I Lived For”.
- A description of “Benevolent Societies”.
- A quick summary of the Second Great Awakening.
- A description of Temperance and its effect towards Transcendentalism.
- A diagram and explanation of Utopian Communities.
- A look at the treatment in prisons...Prison Reforms.
- A Conclusion of the beliefs in which the Transcendentalists believed in.
- A look at our resources.
- And a look at our credits.
Transcendentalism was a popular philosophical movement in nineteenth century America. Transcendentalism was a result of the Romantic Movement and religious criticisms and skepticisms that swept Europe in the early nineteenth century. It began in New England, almost as another spiritual awakening of the people. The transcendentalists believed that they were creating a “new era”. They truly believed that their ideals were going to change society for the better. They disapproved of people’s blind conformity to society and urged individuals to find themselves, or as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it, “an original relation to the universe”. The following presentation attempts to showcase the ideas of the Transcendentalists, as well as its impact on American History.
Romanticism

- Romanticism was a period of Literature, Arts, and Education (intellectual ideas).
- The period was a reaction to the Industrial Revolution.
- The romantic period was also within the time period that was referred to as the “age of revolutions.”
- A lot of innovation in writing came from this period.

Transcendentalists were interested in reforming systems. Education was one of the topics that Transcendentalists wanted to reform. Many writers, essayists, and poets, that were key players in this period, were also Transcendentalists.
Horace Mann was an American education reformist. As a transcendentalist, Mann believed in reforming the fine arts of education for the next generation of American citizens. Mann took action on his education reformity by being on the Massachusetts State Board Of Education. He was also a politician on the Massachusetts House of Representatives.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ralph Waldo Emerson was an essayist, poet, and a transcendentalist. He is the one that led the Transcendentalist movement in the mid-19th century. Emerson has written thousands of essays on Transcendentalist topics. Emerson also went around giving lectures too. He is very famous for his lectures.

Walt Whitman

Walt Whitman was a poet, journalist, and an essayist. He was also apart of the movement from transcendentalism to realism. He incorporated both views into his works as well. Whitman is among the most influential poets in America. He is often called the father of free verse. Just think...one of the most influential poets in America involved in a movement. He would influence thousands of minds instantly.

To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

(1803–1882)

O Captain! My Captain!

A Captain my Captain! Over the白雪 peak

The ship has weathered a mighty gale:

The captain is dead; and I take to the oars,

To steer the vessel out of the heavy swell

Whose freight was my also in the same boat.

Who would bear the blame of a act, the good of others? (Santos)

Or the weathering of the night

Whose fates are mine also, and I shall be driven

Into the Ocean, nor shall

O Captain! My Captain! rise up and hear the bells

That is the ship that brought the good news of Santa Anna's defeat.

O Captain! My Captain! Rise up and hear the bells

The ship has weathered a mighty gale:

The captain is dead; and I take to the oars,

To steer the vessel out of the heavy swell

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That is the ship that brought the good news of Santa Anna's defeat.
The author of this work, Henry David Thoreau, was a noted transcendentalist of his time. His work, Where I Lived and What I Lived For, expresses his transcendentalist ideas. Thoreau explains how he wants his life to slow down so he can enjoy more of it, he also explains how you do not have to go to the nicest places to find the best in life, that the sublime is wherever you are.
Benevolent Societies

It is a mutual organization or benefit society composed of a body of people who join together for a common financial or social purpose. These people who joined together worked and communicated with mutual trust. Edward Smith Hall founded this group of people in 1813. Benevolent society was Australia's first charity. For example, women benevolent society discusses their charitable work. They make sure that the poor have homes and food provided. They basically aid the less fortunate.
Second Great Awakening

A religious reform that lasted about 50 years from the late 1700’s - mid 1800’s. Traditional Christian beliefs were held in less favor and all religions were now attempting to Evangelize the West. This “took the form of interdenominational missionary group”. Social activism created “abolition groups, temperance and suffrage societies, and others committed to prison reform, care for the handicapped and mentally ill.”

Temperance

Temperance is described as self-restraint or moderation, specifically pertaining to alcoholic drinks. In the Catholic religion, temperance is one of the four cardinal virtues. “It may be defined as the righteous habit which makes a man govern his natural appetite for pleasures of the senses”. There was a belief in the relation of socioeconomic class to alcohol consumption. The Temperance Movement, which also took place during the early 19th century was an effort to encourage moderation in the consumption of intoxicating liquors.
Larger View of Artifact:

DRINKING LEADS TO
NEGLECT OF DUTY,
MORAL DEGRADATION,
AND
CRIME
A Utopian Community was the idea of a “perfect society”
Transcendentalists of the 1840s believed that the only way to have a perfect person was to reform the society.
Some Transcendentalists had also experimented and tried to design a true utopian society.
In the colonial America times, prisons were harsh. Punishments were harsh. A petty thief for punishment on the third offense could be hanged in the center of town. So imagine what a person who committed a murder would get as a punishment.

Soon after, the people of the U.S. started to understand that they needed to fix the mess in prisons. To do this, each state individually started to reform punishments in prisons gradually. Some of the states started with taking out the death penalty for burglaries and robberies.
Do We Still See Transcendentalism movements today?

What is the final verdict on Transcendentalism?

What is the overall picture?
Conclusion

Those who believed in the ideal of transcendentalism also believed in several other popular movements of the time. Several notable transcendentalists were also abolitionists, as well as feminists. The goal of all transcendentalists was to make the world a better place.

The ideas of the transcendentalists, especially Henry David Thoreau’s idea of civil disobedience, helped to shape the America of today. Civil disobedience was widely used by African Americans in the mid twentieth century to gain equal civil rights.
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Credits

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PowerPoint made on Google Drive

Mr. Grant’s Period 2 Class

Pre-AP US History I

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