

Temperance: The Evils of Alcohol

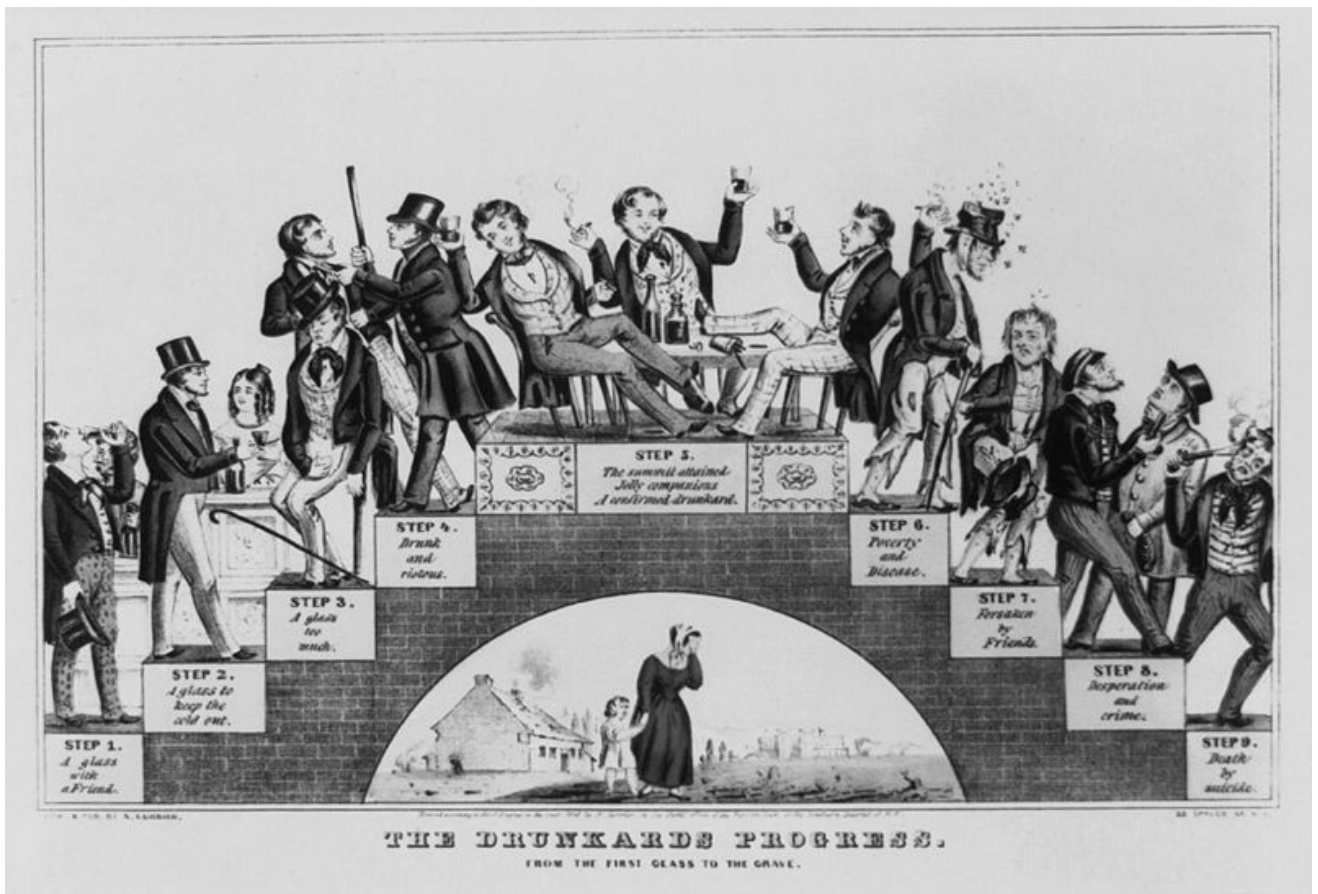
Marsha Yoder, Lawton Chiles Middle Academy
Grade level: 8th

Directions: Look at each document and answer related questions.

Essay: Write a five-paragraph essay describing why reformers believed so passionately in the Temperance Movement. Use details and information from the five documents to support your answer.

Document 1

A lithograph by Nathaniel Currier from the Library of Congress, c. 1846



1. What do you notice about the people on the steps?
2. What is represented by the people under the steps?
3. What is the point of view of this political cartoon?

Documents 2 and 3

Poster created by Gillin Print Co. of New York. It may have been made for Carry's lectures in that state. It was donated to the Kansas Historical Society in 1928.

Excerpt from *The Use and Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation*, Written by Herself, 1908.



When I found I could effect nothing through the officials, I was sad, indeed. I saw that Kansas homes, hearts and souls were to be sacrificed. I had lost all the hopes of my young life through drink, I saw the terrible results that would befall others. I felt that **I had rather die than see the saloons come back to Kansas.** I felt desperate. I took this to God daily, feeling He only, could rescue. On the 5th of June [1900], before retiring, I threw myself face downward at the foot of my bed in my home in Medicine Lodge. I poured out my grief in agony to God, in about this strain: "Oh Lord you see the treason in Kansas, **they are going to break the mothers' hearts,** they are going to send the boys to drunkards' graves and a drunkard's hell. I have exhausted my means, Oh Lord, you have plenty of ways. You have used the base things and the weak things, use me to save Kansas. I have but one life to give you, if I had a thousand, I would give them all, please show me something to do." The next morning I was awakened by a voice which seemed to me speaking in my heart, these words, "GO TO KIOWA," and my hands were lifted and thrown down and the words, "I'LL STAND BY YOU." The words, "**Go to Kiowa,**" were spoken in a murmuring, musical tone, low and soft, but "I'll stand by you," was very clear, positive and emphatic. I was impressed with a great inspiration, the interpretation was very plain, it was this: "Take something in your hands, and **throw at these places in Kiowa and smash them.**" I was very much relieved and overjoyed and was determined to be, "obedient to the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).

4. What was Carry Nation famous for?

5. Why was she so disturbed by the saloons?

6. Where did Carry Nation's inspiration for action come from?

Document 4

Lyrics from a song often sung by Temperance Societies. From *Songs of Henry Clay Work*, 1864, The original sheet music carried the preface:

'Tis the song of little Mary
Standing at the bar-room door
While the shameful midnight revel
Rages wildly as before.

Come Home Father

Father, dear father, come home with me now!
The clock in the steeple strikes one.-
You said you were coming home from the shop,
As soon as your day's work was done.-

Our fire has gone out, our house is all dark,
And mother's been watching since tea,
With poor brother Benny so sick in her arms,
And no one to help her but me.-

Come home father, come home, come home!-
Please ,- father, dear father, come home!

7. What are your personal reactions to these lyrics?

8. Why do you think the artist wrote this song? Who was his intended audience?

Document 5

The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Passed by 46 states (Florida was not one of them.)

AMENDMENT XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

9. What actually becomes illegal in this amendment?

10. Is legislation an effective way to control people's behavior and solve social problems?