



Section 2

GUIDED READING *Women Fight for Equality*

A. As you read about the rise of a new women’s movement, take notes to explain how each of the following helped to create or advance the movement.

1. Experiences in the workplace	2. Experiences in social activism
3. “Consciousness raising”	4. Feminism
5. Betty Friedan and <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>	6. Civil Rights Act of 1964
7. National Organization for Women (NOW)	8. Gloria Steinem and <i>Ms.</i> magazine
9. Congress	10. Supreme Court

B. The Equal Rights Amendment would have guaranteed equal rights under the law, regardless of gender. Who opposed this amendment? Why?

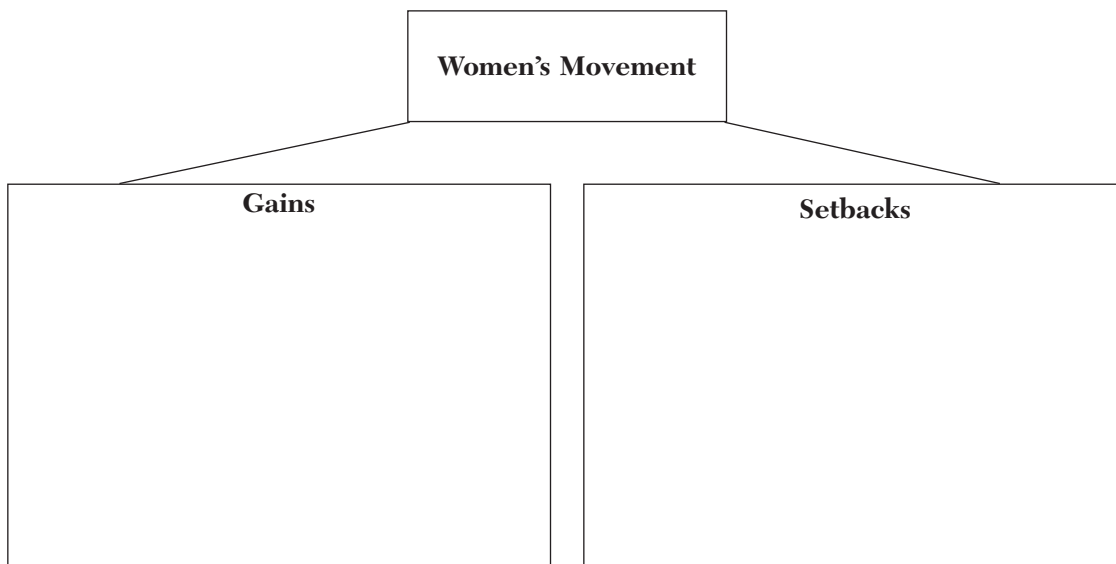
1. Who?	2. Why?
---------	---------

CHAPTER
23
SECTION 2

RETEACHING ACTIVITY *Women Fight for Equality*

Summarizing

A. Complete the graphic below by highlighting the significant gains and setbacks of the women’s movement of the 1960s and 1970s.



Finding Main Ideas

B. Answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What was the message of *The Feminine Mystique*? What was the book’s significance?

2. What role did the civil rights and antiwar movements play in the rise of the women’s movement?

3. Why did some women, including Phyllis Schlafly, oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

CHAPTER
23

Section 2

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: REGION

The Equal Rights Amendment

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

In 1970 the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which had been introduced in every session of Congress since 1923, finally got out of committee and onto the floor. The time seemed right for an amendment guaranteeing equality of rights under the law without regard to sex. The House passed the ERA in 1971 by a huge margin, and in 1972 the Senate followed suit. Congress then sent the ERA to the states for approval, with the usual seven-year deadline for getting the necessary three-fourths majority—38 states.

Ratification seemed a foregone conclusion. Within three months, 20 states rushed to pass the ERA. Within a year, 30 states were in the fold. The bandwagon was rolling, with six years left to get only 8 more states' approval.

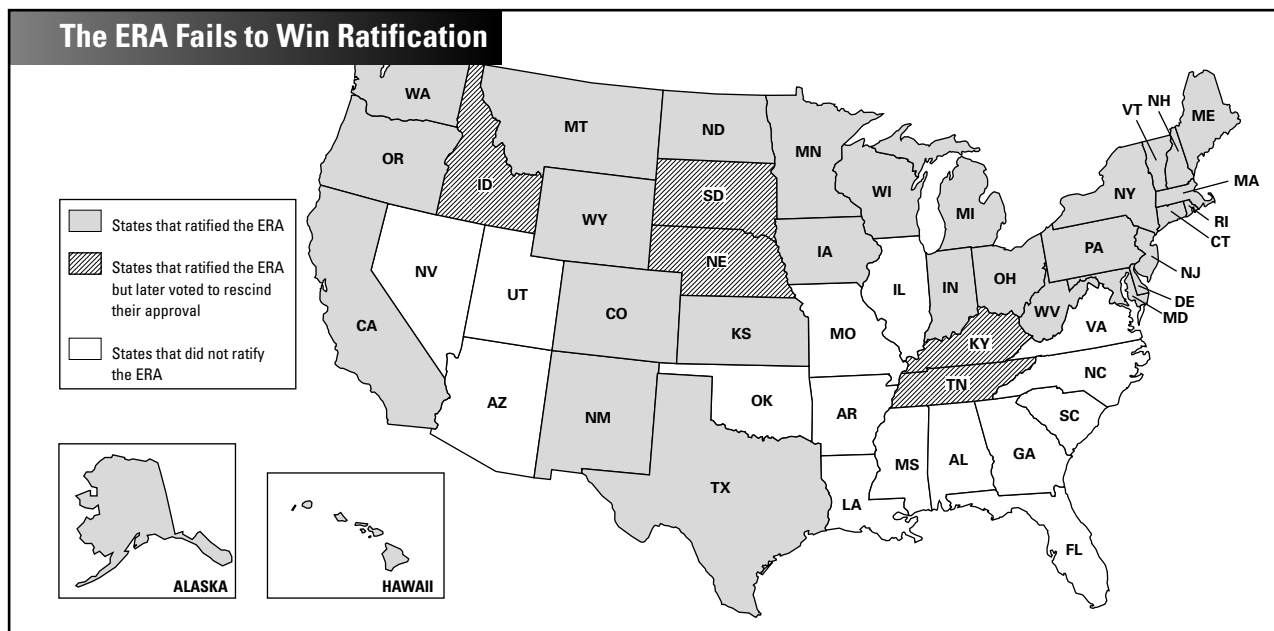
By 1973, though, major opposition had surfaced. Conservatives saw the ERA as a threat to family life and the traditional division of tasks between the sexes. They feared that current marriage, divorce, and child-custody laws would be thrown out under ERA provisions. They felt that

existing laws already protected women's interests that needed protecting—hiring, promotions, and pay—so a "Stop ERA" campaign was organized.

In 1974 three states ratified the ERA, but in 1975 only one did. There were no ratifications in 1976; in 1977 one final state ratified the ERA. Thus, in 1979, the ERA became the first constitutional amendment ever to end its seven-year limit unratified. Backers were shocked.

Then, in a move without precedent, Congress extended the time for ratification by three years. The extra time did not help, though. In fact, five states tried to rescind—cancel—their ratifications, though Congress did not permit them to do so. Also, the election of Ronald Reagan as president in 1980 confirmed a shift to conservative thinking in the nation.

Not one state passed the ERA during the extra three years, and in 1982 the second deadline expired. The issue died for good on November 12, 1983, when the U.S. House fell six votes short on a revival bill that would have created an ERA II.



© McDougal Littell Inc. All rights reserved.

Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. State in your own words the goal of the attempt to add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution. _____

2. How many states voted to ratify the ERA? _____
3. Why did ratification of the ERA seem a sure thing in 1974? _____

4. Which states tried to rescind their ERA ratifications? _____

Which states, if any, had their attempts to withdraw ratification upheld? _____

5. Which region of the United States was solidly against the ERA? _____

What two other regions seem to have shown some resistance to the ERA? _____

6. What two unprecedented events occurred in connection with the ERA voting?

7. How would the ERA have fared if ratifying an amendment had required only a three-fifths majority of states? _____

a two-thirds majority of states? _____


AMERICAN LIVES **Betty Friedan**
Launching a Movement
Section 2

"[We will act] to bring women into full participation in American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men."—National Organization for Women, *Statement of Purpose, 1966*

The 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique* helped launch the modern feminist movement. By describing the frustration many women felt at being confined to the role of wife and mother, the author, Betty Friedan (b. 1921), helped women see that they were not alone.

Betty Goldstein studied psychology in college and graduated with highest honors. Over the next few years, she did some graduate study, worked in journalism, and married Carl Friedan. When she was pregnant in 1954 with her second child, she asked for maternity leave. She was fired instead.

Over the next decade, Friedan mixed raising her children with occasional writing of magazine articles. She became frustrated because editors did not want articles about women with careers. They would print only stories about women's home lives. In 1957, Friedan began to survey her college classmates. She wondered, fifteen years after graduation, how they felt about their lives. The results of her study launched a movement.

Friedan found that many women in her study were frustrated by the barriers that society placed in their paths. The "feminine mystique" forced women to focus on family alone, not on careers. She published her findings in *The Feminine Mystique*. At first, the publisher printed only 2,000 copies. In ten years, the book sold in the millions.

The book came at a time when unfairness against women was coming to light. That same year, a government commission report criticized society's treatment of women. In response, Congress passed a law requiring that women receive equal pay for equal work. Friedan's book helped spur women to take action.

In 1964 Congress was debating the Civil Rights Act. One member added an amendment that would ban job discrimination against women. He did it to try to defeat the act. However, the act—and the ban—passed. A new government agency was set up to enforce the law, but it refused to act on cases of discrimination against women. In 1966, Friedan and others took action of their own. They formed the National Organization for Women (NOW). The

group vowed to push the government to enforce the law.

NOW chose Friedan as president, and she gave the group a solid start. Within five years, NOW grew to more than 15,000 members. Over time, though, some members urged a more radical program than Friedan supported. By 1970, she felt that these members had gained control of the group, and she left the presidency. She did not leave the fight for women's rights, though. Later in 1970 she organized a nationwide strike for equality. She campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Many feminists wanted this amendment to the Constitution to guarantee equal rights for women. The ERA was never ratified, however. Friedan blamed, in part, the radicals of NOW for its defeat. She said that their ideas—outside the mainstream of American thought—cost the ERA badly needed support.

Since then Friedan has continued to travel, lecture, and write. She created a storm of protest in 1981 with her book *The Second Stage*. In it she tried to move feminism back into the American mainstream. Women had lost something from the feminist emphasis on careers, she said. What was needed was a way of balancing career and family, not the emphasis of either over the other. Some feminists said she had abandoned the cause. Others defended her for recognizing that life includes work and family. In 1993 she published *The Fountain of Age*. The book examined human vitality after age 60 and criticized nursing-home operators.

Questions

1. How did magazines help spread the "feminine mystique"?
2. One feminist said that Friedan had the same impact on women that Martin Luther King, Jr., had on African Americans. How were the effects of their lives similar?
3. Why did some feminists criticize Friedan for the ideas in *The Second Stage*?