



# Better Days 2020 Reading Club

## WEEK 4

### WINNING THE VOTE: A DIVIDED MOVEMENT BROUGHT ABOUT THE NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

This week, we'll be learning about the divisions and tensions that arose within the suffrage movement as they pushed for national women's suffrage. Before the Civil War, suffragists and abolitionists worked together for the most part; pushing for more freedoms for both women and black men. But after the war, the 15th Amendment was going to be passed, giving black men the right to vote before white women. Prominent suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were appalled. After heated debate, they left their coalition with fellow abolitionists and created their own organization: the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA). Drawing upon the one thing they approved of in the 15th Amendment, the plan of the NWSA was to abandon the plan to achieve women's suffrage state by state, and go straight through the federal government by creating an amendment for women's suffrage. This ultimately caused even more division within the suffrage movement, and took much longer than Anthony or Stanton anticipated.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What stances did Anthony and Stanton take in their debate with Frederick Douglass about the 15th Amendment?
- What organization was formed by Lucy Stone to rival the NWSA? What were their beliefs?
- What are some difficulties that still arise from the way the 15th and 19th Amendments are written?