[Transcendentalism](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-us-history/period-4/apush-culture-and-reform/a/transcendentalism)

**WHAT:**

* It was a intellectual, philosophical, and literary movement in the 1830's that began in New England.
* Fades away in 1850's as focus turns to abolishing chattel slavery

**REACTION TO:**

* Early industrial revolution: materialism, clocks manage daily lives rather than seasons
* Unitarianism - liberal Christian sect in Boston that used reason, rational thought and science in their faith of God
* "a spirituality that transcends the realm of rationality and the material world."

**BELIEFS:**   
Institutions have corrupted the purity of the individual; people are at their best when they are

* Independent
* Self-Reliance

**PEOPLE:**

Ralph Waldo Emerson

* "Nature" - 1836, essay ,   
  theme: connection of nature and God
* "Self-Reliance" - 1841,essay, theme: individualism, nonconformity

Henry David Thoreau

* Walden, 1854 - reflected themes of nature, self-reliance, spirituality
* Walden Pond, Massachusetts - rural cabin, 2yrs +

Margaret Fuller

* Edit the journal *The Dial*, 1840's  
  Themes: women's rights
* *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, 1845, essay
* Influenced 1848, Seneca Falls Convention

[VIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUSyHVGJFNo)