

**Road to the Civil War**  
**“A whole lot of shaking going on”**  
**Lesson 4**

**Goal:** TLW understand the need for community, and the push toward utopian societies.  
TLW understand how different religious sects could form.

**Objectives:**

TLW identify the different types Utopian societies that sprung up in America.  
TLW identify the basic aspects of Shaker society as described in the video  
TLW chart some basic similarities and differences between the different Utopian societies

**Required Prior Knowledge:**

TLW know basic information from the previous three lessons about life in America at this time.

**Materials:** The American Nation textbook. “Shakers” documentary. Articles on Brooks Farm and the Oneida Community.

**Instructional Procedures:**

**Set/Introduction:**

1. Begin by placing a bell ringer on the board to get them thinking about the lesson.
2. Explain that we will discuss utopian societies and their impact on America.
3. Tell them they will watch part of a video on the Shakers on of the most influential Utopian religious sects.
4. Ask if they have ever visited any utopian villiages.

**Instruction/Body:**

1. Describe the basic purpose for Utopian societies.
2. Tell how many different Protestant Denominations under went changes during the “Second Great Awakening.”
3. Talk about the Shakers.
4. Show video clip on life as a Shaker.
5. Have the class discuss some of the major problems with the Shakers thinking
  - a. Like the fact, there would be no procreation.
6. Discuss Joseph Smith and the Mormons.
7. Read articles about the different Utopian Societies
8. Have the students divide into groups to come up with reasons for failure of Utopian societies and what they would have done differently.

**Assessment:**

**Closure:**

1. Ask the students to
  - a. Review the practices of the Shakers.
  - b. How these beliefs were contrasted with the Mormons and other Utopian Societies.
2. Tell them that tomorrow they will discuss the Women's movement.

**Supplement Activities:**

I will have the students create their own utopian society based on what they know about the movement.