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notes

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Thesis: The literary movement known as the Transcendentalism significantly impacted the time period of 1840 to 1855.

Works Cited: Rahn, Josh. "Transcendentalism." *Literature Periods & Movements*. Jalic Inc., 2011. Web. 29 Aug. 2014.

★ Authors of the Transcendentalism

- Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Henry David Thoreau
- Margaret Fuller
- William Henry Channing
- George Ripley
- Emily Dickinson
- Walt Whitman
- Jones Very
- Amos Bronson Alcott
- Convers Francis
- Elizabeth Peabody
- Frederick Henry Hedge

★ Characteristics of the Transcendentalism

- Transcendentalism started when the New England Congregationalists left orthodox Calvinism because they believed that the human race should be striving for better things.
- The person who started the Transcendentalism movement was Immanuel Kant.
 - His writings and theories are what started the movement.
 - He argued that every person should have their own opinions and their own beliefs of what they think is true or not true.
 - He believed that people should be skeptic of things if they don't believe it is true.
 - He thought humans should have a thought of uncertainty, no matter how much science there was to "prove" something was real.
- The Transcendentalism was a short movement because one of the greatest contributors of this period, Margaret Fuller, died.
- Transcend means moving farther than the mind or body can go.
 - In this movement, the thought of life and society are blocking what is between your ownself and thoughts about spirit.

- They believed that nature could clear your mind of stress and any other kind of distraction that was going on.
- They believed that you had as high of a potential as you set one for yourself.
- Since the United States was a new country, it played a big role in the Transcendentalism.
 - American philosophy was like of the philosophy of England.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson was a big founding father of the Transcendentalism.

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Works Cited: Goodman, Russell. "Transcendentalism." *Stanford University*. Stanford University, 06 Feb. 2003. Web. 03 Sept. 2014.

★ Political Movements

- Slavery still existed during the Transcendentalism.
 - Fugitive Slave Law was passed in 1850.
 - Law required that everyone who had a Fugitive Slave would have to return them to their owners.
 - This law affected all of America because it said that if any slaves were in the North, they would have to be sent back to the south to their owners.
 - Slaves were considered property, not human.
- During the middle of the 1800's politics because a huge thing for America because they were a new country and were still trying to figure everything out.
 - The war was also going on between Mexico.
 - President Van Buren thought that any Ethnic should not be in America, anywhere east of the Mississippi.
 - This meant that the 16,000 Cherokees that lived east of the Mississippi were forced to move.
 - The Cherokee chief decided that he didn't want to sign the agreement of removal of the Cherokee tribe.
 - He didn't want to leave because they already had everything they wanted, civilized, in their own little tribe.
 - They had land properties already sold out to people of the tribe
 - They already started using their plows and spinning wheels for when they raised their crops.
 - They already owned slaves to take care of their farms and villages.
 - In 1838, President Van Buren sent the United States Army to go onto Cherokee land and round all them up to move them west of the Mississippi River.
 - This was called the Trail of Tears.
 - Many died along the way.

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★ Important Things That Happened During the Transcendentalism Time Period:

- In 1840, Antarctica was claimed for the United States.
- In May of 1841 the first wagon train was used.
 - It was to travel from California to Missouri.
 - It was going to take 6 months to get there.
- In June, 1843, Edgar Allan Poe published his story "The Gold Bug" in the Dollar Newspaper.
 - He won the grand prize of \$100.
- July of 1844 The United States and China sign the first treaty with two nations.
 - The treaty is called The Treaty of Wanghia.
- in 1846, Mexico declares war with the United States.
 - California declares independence from Mexico.
 - In Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a meteorite strikes.
- In 1847, the first adhesive stamp was made.
 - A Benjamin Franklin stamp was 5 cents.
 - A George Washington stamp was 10 cents.
- Between September 8-15, 1847, The battle of Mexico started.
- In 1848, the Gold Rush started.
 - Gold was found in California.
 - It brought 80,000 people to California, hoping to find gold.
- In 1848, The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican War.
 - Mexico relinquishing its rights to Texas above the Rio Grande River.
 - The United States got California, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and parts of Colorado.
 - The United States paid Mexico 15 million dollars.
- In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the female doctor of the United States.
 - She graduated from Medical Institute of Geneva, New York.
- In 1849, the first baseball uniforms were made and handed out to the New York Knickerbockers Club.