**Student Name Block Date**

**Transcendentalism**

Begin your research by going to[www.merriam-webster.com](http://www.merriam-webster.com) Look up the following words in the *Dictionary Search* and write a brief definition for each word.

Transcend

Introspection

Intuition

Innate

Divinity

Dogma

Inherent

Civil Disobedience

Now that you’re armed with these terms, you may begin your quest to understand Transcendentalism. Search the web to find information on the topics below. Take clear notes on binder paper. Write your notes in a format that makes sense for you. Include clear headings above groupings of information. These notes need to be clear to both you and me.

Begin your search with the following websites. Much of the information you need can be found on these sites.

American Transcendentalism Web:

[www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/authors/thoreau/](http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/authors/thoreau/)

[www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/ideas/definitionbickman.html](http://www.vcu.edu/engweb/transcendentalism/ideas/definitionbickman.html)

Other Websites:

[www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Transcendentalism](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Transcendentalism)

[www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap4/4intro.html](http://www.csustan.edu/english/reuben/pal/chap4/4intro.html)

[www.transcendentalists.com/others.htm](http://www.transcendentalists.com/others.htm)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/transcendentalism/>

For the following questions, you will need to be VERY specific. Make sure that you are answering the question fully so that points are not deducted from your answers.

***Who****:*  Give 5 important facts (each) about the following writers and their role in the Transcendentalism movement.

· Ralph Waldo Emerson

· Henry David Thoreau

***When****:* During what time period did the Transcendentalists write? Describe about what was happening in America at the time.

***What****:* Name two major works that were written by Thoreau and Emerson and give a three sentence description of what each was about.



***Why****:* How did their beliefs shape American history? Give examples of how their beliefs helped to shape American politics and policy (even in modern America). How can some of the views of Transcendentalists still be seen in American life today?

***How****:* How did Thoreau put his beliefs into action?

How did the Transcendentalists believe knowledge of God was obtained? How was this different from the mainstream’s view of God at this point in time (the mid 1800’s)?

*Extension:*  Briefly explain how and why Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, and Frederick Douglass and their works are connected to the American Transcendentalists.

**List other websites from which you took information. List the title of the site and the web address.**