How many reasons can you find in this cartoon to explain why people supported the temperance movement?
The Temperance Movement

By 1830, the average American over 15 years old consumed nearly seven gallons of pure alcohol a year – three times as much as we drink today – and alcohol abuse (primarily by men) was wreaking havoc on the lives of many, particularly in an age when women had few legal rights and depended on their husbands.

The country's first serious anti-alcohol movement grew out of a desire for reform that swept the nation in the 1830s and 1840s. Many abolitionists fighting to rid the country of slavery came to see drink as an equally great evil... The temperance movement, rooted in America's Protestant churches, first urged moderation, then encouraged drinkers to help each other to resist temptation, and ultimately demanded that local, state, and national governments prohibit alcohol outright, which means to make it illegal.

Women's Christian Temperance Union

The brewing business boomed as German-American entrepreneurs scaled up production to provide the new immigrants with millions of gallons of beer. In the 1870s, upset wives and mothers whose lives had been ruined by the alcohol and saloons, began to protest and organize politically for the cause of temperance. Their organization, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), became a force to be reckoned with, their cause enhanced by alliance (partnership) with Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and other women battling for the vote.

By the late 19th century the WCTU, led by the Frances Willard, could claim some significant successes – it had lobbied for local laws restricting alcohol and created an anti-alcohol educational campaign that reached into nearly every schoolroom in the nation. Its members viewed alcohol as the underlying source of a long list of social ills and found common cause with Progressives trying to improve the living conditions of immigrants crowded into tenements, protect the rights of young children working in mills and factories, improve public education, and secure women's rights. But the WCTU's ultimate goal, a prohibition amendment to the constitution, still seemed impossibly out of reach. It would take a new organization, the Anti-Saloon League, to make the dream of an amendment come true.

The Anti-Saloon League

The ASL, under the leadership of Wayne Wheeler, became the most successful single issue lobbying organization in American history. They united with Democrats and Republicans, Progressives, Populists, and suffragists, the Ku Klux Klan and the NAACP, the International Workers of the World, and many of America's most powerful industrialists including Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Andrew Carnegie – all of whom lent support to the ASL's increasingly effective campaign. By 1920, the new amendment that banned the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol existed.
How does alcohol affect marriages? Why?
What do you think it means “divorced for cruelty?”
Why do you think these kids want people to make alcohol illegal?

Who or what are they concerned about?
What is the danger of alcohol?
Where else is alcohol dangerous?
Why do the women look different?

How has alcohol affected their families?
Who will voting dry protect?

Dry = not selling alcohol
Who is leading this movement?

Who are these women threatening? What are they saying they won’t do?
Write Down These Definitions in Your Notebook!

18th Amendment
A 1920 amendment to the constitution that prohibited (made it illegal) the sale of alcohol in the United States.

Prohibition
A time period from 1920 to 1933 where alcohol was illegal.

Temperance Movement
A movement to end the use of alcohol.

Saloon
A place to get a drink. A bar. A pub.