

04002

ERA 4: EXPANSION AND REFORM (1801–1861)

THEME: SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY

CHILDREN OF DARKNESS

GUIDING QUESTIONS

How much impact did Nat Turner have on slavery and abolition?

What were the factors that lead to Nat Turner’s rebellion?

QUESTION FOCUS EXAMPLES FOR TASK 24

Nat Turner’s rebellion was doomed to failure.



Unauthentic portrait of Nat Turner.

TEACHER-TO-TEACHER

Students must understand the gravity and severity of Nat Turner’s Insurrection; that it was not just an uprising, but a violent one that generated serious repercussions such as “black codes” in antebellum Virginia. Even today, questions about the rebellion, and Turner himself, remain unanswered. (Yes, his ideas and actions were extreme and violent but is desiring freedom from slavery delusional?) *In Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs mentions this particular insurrection and its impact on slaves in her area of North Carolina but does not give an in depth explanation. When students read her slave narrative, they question why this one act had such an impact on such an otherwise strong woman and other slaves in the South. This article serves to clarify the insurrection for students.

LITERATURE CONNECTION: *Nat Turner: A Slave Rebellion in History and Memory* by Kenneth S. Greenberg, *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride

CONTENTS

- ❖ **Children of Darkness** ARTICLE
- ❖ **Court Proceedings and Testimony Regarding the Denmark Vesey Rebellion, June-August 1822** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Horrid Massacre in Virginia** IMAGE
- ❖ **The Liberator Comments on Nat Turner’s Insurrection** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Harriet Ann Jacobs, Fear of Insurrection** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Black Code: An Act Concerning Slaves and Free Persons of Color** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Nat Turner poem by T. Thomas Fortune** IMAGE

fourscore
make history

RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Task 8

Analyze and Compare Author Purpose

Task 10

Question the Author

Task 17

White Out

Task 23

Identifying Claim and Evidence

Task 24

QFT (Question Focus Technique)

Task 25

Document Sourcing