

04003

ERA 4: EXPANSION AND REFORM (1801–1861)
THEME: REFORM, SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY

THE FATHER OF AMERICAN TERRORISM

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Is civil disobedience the most effective means of achieving racial equality?

Were the abolitionists responsible reformers or irresponsible agitators?

QUESTION FOCUS EXAMPLES FOR TASK 24

Violent actions are sometimes necessary in order to achieve social justice or to create change.



John Brown, the Abolitionist.

TEACHER-TO-TEACHER

Students need to understand a few historical events/issues before analyzing the article and compelling questions. They need to be aware of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, the country's atmosphere regarding the slavery issue (including slave-owners' motives versus abolitionists viewpoints), and the general state of affairs of the country just before the Civil War. It would also be helpful to be familiar with the politics and viewpoints of Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Herman Melville. Each of these famous authors referenced John Brown in their literature.

LITERATURE CONNECTION: *Cloudsplitter* by Russell Banks, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, *The Portent* (poem) by Herman Melville, *Year of Meteors* (poem) by Walt Whitman

CONTENTS

- ◆ **The Father of American Terrorism** by Ken Chowder ARTICLE
- ◆ **Political Cartoons depicting John Brown** IMAGE
- ◆ **Pamphlet of John Brown's Provisional Constitution** DOCUMENT
- ◆ **Written Command from Robert E. Lee demanding John Brown's arrest** DOCUMENT
- ◆ **A Plea for John Brown by Henry David Thoreau** DOCUMENT

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RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Task 5
Word Choice Matters:
Changing Meaning and Tone

Task 8
Analyze and Compare Author Purpose

Task 21
Acrostic Poem

Task 23
Identifying Claim and Evidence

Task 24
QFT (Question Focus Technique)

Task 25
Document Sourcing