

John Brown: The Fight to End Slavery

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Junior Division

Group Website

Number of Words in Project: 1198 words

Number of Words in Process Paper: 428 words

Process Paper

To choose our topic, we first thought of themes that would benefit from this year's theme of Breaking Barriers. One of our first ideas was the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918, but we decided on Brown in the end. The idea came to us because one of our team members had visited the Gettysburg museum and seen an exhibit on Brown. Also, one of our members is from Kansas and this helped our decision.

We conducted our research by visiting libraries and finding websites on our topic. One of our members met a Civil War collector at a talk on Abolitionism, and that is how we got our hands on a piece of the rope that was used to hang John Brown. We also found many primary resources that gave us insight on how the people of that time thought of Brown. We had sources debating whether

Brown was a domestic terrorist, and some saying that he was the first terrorist in America.

We selected the category that we did because we both did other categories last year and thought that it would be fun to try something new. We both didn't like the category we did last year. We heard from many people that it was exciting to create a website. We created our project using the NHD Web Central website creator. At first it was really hard to set up the website, but then we started getting used to it. We watched many videos on how to create a website. Some friends and our teacher also taught us some tricks like: How to put in a video, how to get links to other pages, and how to put pictures in the background.

Our topic relates to the NHD theme of Breaking Barriers in History for many reasons. Brown was one of the first Abolitionists that garnered national praise and hatred. He was one of the first people that decided that the only way that he could attempt to break down the barrier of slavery in the United States was with blood. He was willing to give his own life and kill others for the rights of African Americans. He was a spark that helped light the bonfire that was the Civil War, and this is why he is a prime example of someone that broke down a barrier in history. Brown is known as a martyr and is still a symbol of fighting for equality, no matter what the cause. This is the reason the John Brown relates to the NHD theme of Breaking Barriers.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Jacobsohn, Peter, DDS. "Piece of Rope Used to Hang John Brown." *Collection of Dr. Peter Jacobsohn, DDS*. This source was used mainly for pictures, and is a real relic from John Brown. We can take this item to competitions and other events.

McKivigan, John R. "James Redpath, John Brown, and Abolitionist Advocacy of Slave Insurrection." *Civil War History*, pp. 293-313. *Philosophy Documentation Center*, www.pdcnet.org/cwh/content/cwh_1991_0037_0004_0293_0313. Accessed 16 Dec. 2019. Originally published in *Civil War History*, vol. 37, no. 4, Dec. 1991. This Anthology Collection gave great information on who James Redpath was and how he was important at the time of John Brown. He was very influential on John Brown.

"New York Tribune Articles on the Trials." *New York Semi-Weekly Tribune* [New York], 16 Nov. 1859. *Wvculture.org*, www.wvculture.org/history/jbexhibit/tribunetrial.html. Accessed 22 Nov. 2019. This source gave us information about John Brown in his later life. It had interviews with both John and Mary Ann Day Brown from his prison cell before he was executed. We can use this source for quotes too.

Robinson, Armstead L. "'In the Shadow of Old John Brown: Insurrection Anxiety and Confederate Mobilization, 1861-1863.'" *In the Shadow of Old John Brown: Insurrection Anxiety and Confederate Mobilization, 1861-1863*. *The University of Chicago Press Journals*, www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.2307/2716860?journalCode=jnh#. Accessed 5 Jan. 2020. Originally published in *The Journal of African American History*,

vol. 65, no. 4, Fall 1980. This source told us about John Brown and his connection to Bleeding Kansas. It is also a primary source, and can be used for quotes.

Von Frank, Albert J. "John Brown, James Redpath, and the Idea of Revolution." *Civil War History. Philosophy Documentation Center*, www.pdcnet.org/cwh/content/cwh_2006_0052_0002_0142_0160. Accessed 18 Dec. 2019. Originally published in *Civil War History*, vol. 52, no. 2, June 2006, pp. 142-60. This gave us great information on what pushed John Brown to do what he did. It also talked about what was happening at the time. It told us what was going on and it talked about James Redpath, a slavery activist.

Secondary Sources

Bauer, Patricia, editor. "John Brown." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/biography/John-Brown-American-abolitionist. Accessed 17 Jan. 2020. This source gave us some knowledge of John Brown. It also supplied our website with many pictures.

Biography.com Editors, editor. "John Brown Biography." *The Biography.com Website*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Apr. 2014, www.biography.com/activist/john-brown. Accessed 16 Dec. 2019. This website told us how John Brown was important in the fight for the cause of slavery. It told us his whole background and where he grew up and where he came from. It told us about the army he made that was going to raid Harpers Ferry.

"Bleeding Kansas." *Nps.gov*, 10 Apr. 2015, www.nps.gov/fosc/learn/historyculture/bleeding.htm. Accessed 21 Jan. 2020. This source gave us information on sites that had important

events during the Bleeding Kansas conflict. It also had many pictures that we could use in our website.

Curry, John Steuart. *John Brown*. 1939. This picture showed what people thought of John Brown at the time. The picture showed John Brown with a beard, which he had as a disguise because he was wanted in most southern states.

Delbanco, Andrew. *The War before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggle for America's Soul from the Revolution to the Civil War*. New York, Penguin Press, 2018. This book told us mainly about the backstory of the Bleeding Kansas conflict.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, editor. "John Brown." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 13 Sept. 2019, www.britannica.com/biography/John-Brown-American-abolitionist. Accessed 18 Nov. 2019. This source told us about why John Brown did what he did. It told us all of the events that led up to him doing the things that he did. It gave great information on how he died and where he died. It also told how he set up an army to kill all the slave owners.

Etcheson, Nicole. "John Brown, Terrorist?" *Taylor & Francis Online*, 19 Feb. 2009, w.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14664650802299735ww. Accessed 29 Jan. 2020. This source gave us a quote about Brown by Malcolm X. We will use this quote on our Impact page.

Finkelman, Paul. "John Brown: America's First Terrorist?" *National Archives*, 2011, www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2011/spring/brown.html. Accessed 28 Jan. 2020. This source is a very long, detailed expose on whether or not Brown was America's

first terrorist. This source is one of our first sources that speaks about Brown in a negative fashion.

"Harper's Ferry Covered Bridge about 1850." *Mdcoveredbridges.com*,

www.mdcoveredbridges.com/harpersferryabout1850.html. Accessed 22 Jan. 2020. This source gave us a picture of what Harper's Ferry would have looked like around 1850.

Besides this, it gave us no information.

Harpers Ferry Raid. This image showed us a picture of what the Harpers Ferry raid must have looked like. It gave us information on what was going on during the Harpers Ferry raid.

Hendrix, John. *John Brown: His Fight for Freedom*. New York, Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2009. This book is an illustrated children's book about John Brown. It gave us stories about Brown's childhood and helped us decide on this topic.

History.com Editors. "John Brown." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 27 Oct. 2009,

www.history.com/topics/abolotionist-movement/john-brown. Accessed 20 Nov. 2019.

This source gave us great information on the events that happened in John Brown's lifetime. It talked in depth about his raids, Harper's Ferry, Bleeding Kansas, and Brown's early life and his family and their financial problems.

"John Brown." *American Battlefield Trust*, 2019,

www.battlefields.org/learn/biographies/john-brown. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This source gave us information of the sites where both the Bloody Kansas conflicts and the Harper's Ferry incident took place. It also gave us information on Brown's life and personal mindset.

"John Brown." *Kshs.org/kansapedia*, Kansas Historical Society, June 2018,

www.kshs.org/kansapedia/john-brown/11731. Accessed 18 Nov. 2019. This is a source that gave us much information on all aspects of John Brown, his family members, motivation, and the Bleeding Kansas conflict. This source also gave us links to other sources in this website.

Kansas Historical Society. "John Brown." *Kansapedia Kansas Historical Society*, Dec. 1969,

www.kshs.org/kansapedia/john-brown/11731. Accessed 16 Dec. 2019. This source gave us some of the most important information for our project. It is from the historical society in Kansas, which is where many Brown's famous action took place.

Keller, Allan. *Thunder at Harper's Ferry*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice Hall, 1958. This book is a novel about Harper's Ferry. It helped us understand what it would have been like there in 1859.

Post, Chris. "Reputational Politics and the Symbolic Accretion of John Brown in Kansas."

Historical Geography, vol. 37, 2009, pp. 1-22,

[file:///C:/Users/stream/Downloads/2882-4362-1-PB%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/stream/Downloads/2882-4362-1-PB%20(1).pdf). Accessed 25 Nov. 2019.

This source gave good information on John Brown's life, what events happened in his life which made him do what he did. It told the story of Bleeding Kansas in depth and it told about how he got his army together and how he used violence to show slavery was wrong.

"The Price of Freedom: John Brown's Sharps Rifle." *Amhistory.si.edu*, Smithsonian Museum of American History, amhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/collection/object.asp?ID=636.

Accessed 7 Jan. 2020. This source include pictures and a description of the firearm that

Brown used in the Bleeding Kansas conflict. It also gave us information about Brown himself. We will use the photo of the firearm in our website.

The Regionalists. 4 Jan. 2014. This picture showed us interpretations on how people felt about John Brown. We will be able to use this photo in our final project to symbolize interpretations.

Reynolds, David S. *John Brown, Abolitionist: The Man Who Killed Slavery, Sparked the Civil War, and Seeded Civil Rights*. New York, Vintage, 2006. This source is a very detailed book that talks about Brown's entire life. It will help us get quotes and other important facts.

Watts, Dale E. "How Bloody Was Bleeding Kansas?" *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, vol. 18, no. 2, Summer 1995, pp. 116-29. *Kshs.org*, www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1995summer_watts.pdf. Accessed 25 Nov. 2019. This journal told us about the conflicts leading up to the events of our topic. This source was a journal that told us the main reasons behind the Bleeding Kansas conflict. It also included a list of documented killings during the conflict, many of which were at Brown's hand.

"Who is John Brown." *YouTube*, AmericanExperiencePBS, 18 Dec. 2012, www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-Hyp-h14SM. Accessed 31 Jan. 2020. This video gave us ideas on what John Brown did and how he prepared for things. It showed him at his house making weapons for himself and others.

The Portent: John Brown's Raid in American Memory, at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, is one of two new exhibitions devoted to Brown. The other is at the New-York Historical Society. Credit... Casey Templeton for The New York Times. In Richmond in "The Portent: John Brown's Raid in American Memory," something quite different happens. "Does a noble end justify a bloody means?" And given Brown's unwavering belief in his own righteousness and his embrace of the most extreme methods, the show asks, "Is Brown so different from today's bombers from Oklahoma City to Iraq?" The exhibition does not answer those questions; it is effective enough just to raise them. Moreover, slavery seemed to be so firmly established that nothing but violence could unseat it. John Brown was a strict Calvinist, raised in an abolitionist household. While he wasn't a thundering success when it came to business (he was bankrupt by his 40s), he believed that he was on Earth for something big. "This devotion to ending slavery, and his Calvinist upbringing, would eventually combine into a complete and utter certainty that he was predestined to bring about slavery's end," says Holly. And one way he planned to do that was to expand the Underground Railroad into what he called the "Subterranean Pass-Way" that would stretch for thousands of miles... In 1858, Brown convinced abolitionist leaders to fund his plan to create and arm a fighting force with a raid on Harper's Ferry, which was home to a federal arsenal. The story tells about John Brown's fight for equal rights for black people and his fight to end slavery in the Wow! It's hard to know how to rate or review this book. It's a very "heavy" book for kids, and definitely for older children, I'd say 9-13. In the author's note, and implied in the book proper, the author makes a point of expressing how John Brown's actions were for the greater good, for his principles. The more I read about John Brown, the more I admire him. History has not been kind to him which is a shame. If there had been more men like him during the creation of the US, perhaps the history of slavery would have been quite different. The author, Mr. Hendrix, has done justice to the source material and his illustrations are just marvelous.