The Hidden Voyage

Read how one voyage was an effort to expand slavery.

SS24.4.13c "Describe the significance of the Clotilda's delivery of kidnapped people to Mobile Bay as an effort to expand slavery."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that tells why the ship's organizers brought people to Alabama, circle the words that show they broke a law, and number two results of the trip, one for the kidnapped people and one for Alabama.

The Clotilda Reaches Mobile Bay

1. In 1860, a ship called the Clotilda crossed the Atlantic Ocean. On board were about 110 people who had been kidnapped in West Africa. They had families, homes, and lives before they were taken. The ship reached Mobile Bay in Alabama. People who arranged this trip wanted to bring more people into the United States to enslave them.

2. The United States had banned bringing people from Africa into the country for slavery in 1808. Yet slavery was still legal in Alabama in 1860. The people behind the Clotilda broke the law to add to the number of enslaved people. They brought the captives ashore in secret. The ship was later burned and sunk to hide evidence of the trip.

3. For the kidnapped people, this arrival meant losing their freedom and being forced to work. For Alabama, it was an attempt to expand slavery by adding more people to its system of forced labor. The ban had not stopped everyone from trying to profit from slavery. After slavery ended, some survivors of the Clotilda helped build a community near Mobile called Africatown.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the people behind the Clotilda bring kidnapped people to Mobile Bay?

2. Why did the 1808 ban make the Clotilda's trip a crime?

3. How did the Clotilda's arrival affect both the kidnapped people and slavery in Alabama?

4. What does hiding evidence of the trip tell you about the plan to expand slavery?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Someone says, "The Clotilda was only a ship that made a trip." Write three sentences explaining what that claim leaves out about the people on board and the effort to expand slavery. Use at least two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

The Hidden Voyage

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.13c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that tells why the ship's organizers brought people to Alabama, circle the words that show they broke a law, and number two results of the trip, one for the kidnapped people and one for Alabama. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the people behind the Clotilda bring kidnapped people to Mobile Bay?	**They wanted to bring more people into the United States to enslave them.**
2	Why did the 1808 ban make the Clotilda's trip a crime?	**The ban made it illegal to bring people from Africa into the United States for slavery.**
3	How did the Clotilda's arrival affect both the kidnapped people and slavery in Alabama?	**The kidnapped people lost their freedom and were forced to work. Their arrival added more people to Alabama's system of slavery.**
4	What does hiding evidence of the trip tell you about the plan to expand slavery?	**The organizers tried to hide the trip because bringing people from Africa for slavery was against the law.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Clotilda was not just a ship making a trip. Its organizers brought about 110 kidnapped people to Alabama even though the United States had banned bringing people from Africa for slavery. This arrival was an effort to add more enslaved people in Alabama, and the people taken there lost their freedom.

Accept responses that explain both the harm to kidnapped people and the organizers' effort to add to slavery in Alabama. Students may use the 1808 ban, the secret landing, or the destruction of the ship as a supporting detail.