

Words, Weapons, Tension

Two events that deepened conflict before the Civil War

SS4H5.a "Identify Uncle Tom's Cabin and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry and explain how each of these events was related to the Civil War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two sentences that show how the events increased tension between the North and South. Write 1 beside the sentence about *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and 2 beside the sentence about John Brown's raid.

Events Before War

- ① In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a novel about enslaved people and the cruelty of slavery. Stowe had met people who escaped slavery and read accounts of their lives. The book became very popular in the North. Many readers who had not thought much about slavery began to see its human cost.
- ② In 1859, John Brown led a raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia. He and his supporters hoped to take weapons, arm enslaved people, and begin an uprising against slavery. Federal troops stopped the raid and captured Brown. He was tried and executed. Some Northerners honored his fight against slavery, while many others did not support violence.
- ③ These events added to the growing divide between North and South. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* helped more Northern people oppose slavery. Brown's raid made many Southern people fear that abolitionists would use violence to end slavery. The arguments and fears did not cause the Civil War by themselves, but they increased sectional tension before the war began in 1861.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did *Uncle Tom's Cabin* affect some Northern readers, and how did this add to conflict before the Civil War?

2 What did John Brown hope to do when he raided Harper's Ferry?

3 Why did many Southern people fear John Brown's raid?

4 Explain one way the book and one way the raid each increased sectional tension.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence newspaper brief set before 1861. Name both events and explain how each one increased tension between the North and South.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the two sentences that show how the events increased tension between the North and South. Write 1 beside the sentence about *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and 2 beside the sentence about John Brown's raid. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> affect some Northern readers, and how did this add to conflict before the Civil War?	It helped some Northern readers see the human cost of slavery and led more Northern people to oppose slavery, adding to the divide between North and South.
2	What did John Brown hope to do when he raided Harper's Ferry?	He hoped to take weapons from the federal arsenal, arm enslaved people, and begin an uprising against slavery.
3	Why did many Southern people fear John Brown's raid?	They feared that abolitionists would use violence to end slavery.
4	Explain one way the book and one way the raid each increased sectional tension.	The book helped more Northern people oppose slavery. The raid made many Southern people fear violent abolitionists.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Uncle Tom's Cabin brought stories of slavery to many Northern readers and helped more of them oppose slavery. John Brown's raid aimed to begin an uprising by giving weapons to enslaved people. The book's influence and the raid's violence made the divide between North and South sharper.

Accept answers that identify *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as increasing Northern opposition to slavery and John Brown's raid as increasing Southern fears of violent abolitionists. Students may state that these events increased sectional tension but did not cause the Civil War by themselves.