

Rebellion and Response

Trace causes, events, and effects in 1831 Virginia.

VS.6.e “explaining the causes and events of Nat Turner’s Rebellion and how it impacted the institution of slavery.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that explain why Nat Turner planned a rebellion. Number the events of the rebellion in order, then circle the details that show how slavery changed afterward.

Nat Turner’s Rebellion

- ① In Southampton County, Virginia, Nat Turner was an enslaved man and preacher. He lived under slavery, a system that forced people to work without freedom or pay. Turner strongly opposed slavery. He said that he received religious visions and believed God was calling him to fight the injustice of slavery. These beliefs helped lead him to plan a rebellion in 1831.
- ② On August 21, 1831, Turner and a small group began the rebellion. As they moved through the county, more enslaved men joined them. The group attacked several white households and killed about 55 people. News spread quickly. Local armed groups and state militia fought the rebels. Within two days, the rebellion was stopped. Turner escaped for a time, but he was captured in October.
- ③ After the rebellion, many white Virginians reacted with fear and anger. Leaders made slavery laws harsher. New laws limited meetings of enslaved people. Laws also made it harder for enslaved people to learn to read and write or for Black preachers to speak freely. Restrictions gave slaveholders greater control. Nat Turner was tried and executed in November 1831. The rebellion did not end slavery, but it led to controls that strengthened the institution of slavery.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What two causes led Nat Turner to plan a rebellion?

2 What happened after Turner and a small group began the rebellion? Give two events from the passage.

3 How did new laws affect enslaved people after the rebellion?

4 Did Nat Turner's Rebellion end slavery? Explain its impact on slavery.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly four sentences that explain Nat Turner's Rebellion. Include one cause, two events in order, and one impact on slavery.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that explain why Nat Turner planned a rebellion. Number the events of the rebellion in order, then circle the details that show how slavery changed afterward. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two causes led Nat Turner to plan a rebellion?	He strongly opposed slavery, and he believed his religious visions showed that God was calling him to fight slavery.
2	What happened after Turner and a small group began the rebellion? Give two events from the passage.	More enslaved men joined the group, and the group attacked white households. Local armed groups and state militia then fought the rebels and stopped the rebellion within two days.
3	How did new laws affect enslaved people after the rebellion?	The laws limited their meetings and made it harder for them to learn to read and write. They also limited Black preachers from speaking freely.
4	Did Nat Turner's Rebellion end slavery? Explain its impact on slavery.	No. It led to harsher controls and laws that gave slaveholders greater control and strengthened the institution of slavery.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nat Turner opposed slavery and believed his religious visions called him to fight it. On August 21, 1831, he and a small group began a rebellion. More enslaved men joined as the group moved through Southampton County, but armed groups stopped it within two days. Afterward, harsher laws restricted enslaved people and gave slaveholders greater control.

Accept equivalent descriptions of Turner's opposition to slavery and his belief in religious visions. For the open response, check for one cause, two correctly ordered events, and an impact showing that slavery became more tightly controlled.