

Raid and Ripples

Read how John Brown's actions at Harper's Ferry increased tensions before the Civil War.

VS.7.a "explaining the role of John Brown and the impact of the raid at Harper's Ferry;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions John Brown took or planned to take. Circle two details that show the raid's impact on people or on the country.

John Brown at Harper's Ferry

- ① In 1859, John Brown was an abolitionist, a person who wanted to end slavery. He believed slavery was wrong and thought fighting could help end it. Brown gathered a small group of men, including Black and white supporters. Their plan was to take weapons from the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and give weapons to enslaved people who joined them.
- ② On October 16, Brown's group entered Harper's Ferry and took control of the arsenal for a short time. Brown expected many enslaved people to come and join the fight, but few came. Local militia members and United States Marines surrounded the group. The Marines, led by Robert E. Lee, captured Brown after fighting. Brown was tried for treason and executed in Virginia.
- ③ The raid did not start a large uprising, so Brown did not reach his goal. Still, the event had a strong impact. Some people in the North saw Brown as a brave person who opposed slavery. Many people in the South feared that other attacks might happen and wanted stronger protection for slavery. These different reactions increased distrust between North and South before the Civil War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What was John Brown's plan at Harper's Ferry?

2 How did Brown's plan show that he wanted to end slavery?

3 Why did Brown not reach his goal of starting a large uprising?

4 What were two reactions to the raid, and what impact did they have on North-South relations?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are explaining the raid to a classmate. Write exactly three sentences: one about John Brown's role, one about what happened during the raid, and one about its impact. Use *because* in the third sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two actions John Brown took or planned to take. Circle two details that show the raid's impact on people or on the country. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was John Brown's plan at Harper's Ferry?	He planned to take weapons from the federal arsenal and give them to enslaved people who joined his fight.
2	How did Brown's plan show that he wanted to end slavery?	He hoped to arm enslaved people so they could join a fight against slavery.
3	Why did Brown not reach his goal of starting a large uprising?	Few enslaved people came to join him, and militia members and Marines surrounded and captured his group.
4	What were two reactions to the raid, and what impact did they have on North-South relations?	Some Northerners saw Brown as brave, while many Southerners feared more attacks and wanted stronger protection for slavery. These different reactions increased distrust between North and South.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

John Brown was an abolitionist who planned to take weapons from the arsenal and arm enslaved people. His group held the arsenal briefly, but Marines captured him after few enslaved people joined. The raid increased distrust between North and South because people reacted to it in very different ways.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect Brown's plan to ending slavery and identify the raid's failure. For the open response, look for an accurate role, raid event, and impact on tensions between North and South.