

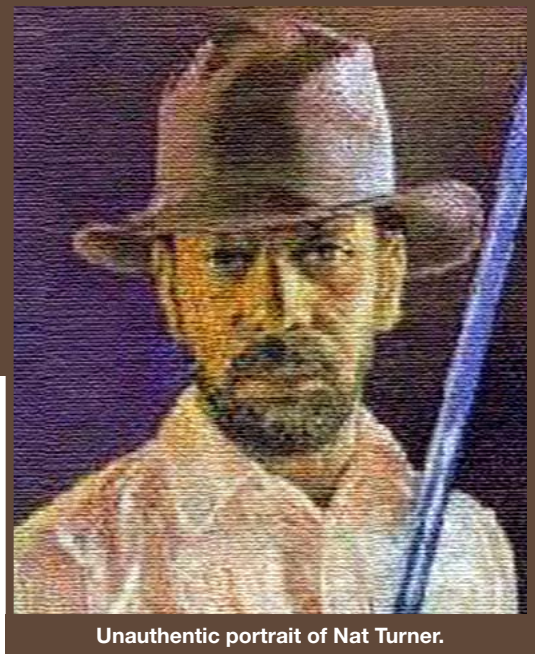
04004

ERA 4: EXPANSION AND REFORM (1801–1861)

ERA 10: CONTEMPORARY UNITED STATES (1968 TO THE PRESENT)

THEME: AMERICAN DIVERSITY, DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY

NAT TURNER REVISITED



Unauthentic portrait of Nat Turner.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Did Nat Turner play a role in the elimination of slavery?

What responsibility does a novelist have in regard to historical accuracy?

QUESTION FOCUS EXAMPLES FOR TASK 24

Fiction writers should not write about historic figures.

TEACHER-TO-TEACHER

This collection is the perfect opportunity to have a cross-curricular discussion, namely between history and English language arts. William Styron's novel **The Confessions of Nat Turner** was initially greeted with popular and critical success, only to see the tide of popular opinion change. Students can compare and contrast the impact a string of historical events—Nat Turner's rebellion in the context of the elimination of slavery and the acceptance of Styron's novel through the years—and determine what, if any, relationship exists among them.

LITERATURE CONNECTION: **The Confessions of Nat Turner** by William Styron. **Other connections include** **Beloved** and **Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison, **Middle Passage** by Charles Johnson, **The Known World** by Edward P. Jones

CONTENTS

- ❖ **Nat Turner Revisited** by William Styron ARTICLE
- ❖ **The Real Nat Turner** DOCUMENT/SECONDARY ARTICLE
- ❖ **Timeline of Abolition/Slavery** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **Nat Turner Confessions (page 2)** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **My Favorite Historical Novel** DOCUMENT
- ❖ **The Confessions of William Styron** DOCUMENT

RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Task 2**
One Sentence Summaries
- Task 3**
Unpack the Points
- Task 13**
Form/Content/Context
- Task 23**
Identifying Claim and Evidence
- Task 24**
QFT (Question Focus Technique)
- Task 25**
Document Sourcing