

05006

ERA 5: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION (1850-1763)  
THEME: SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY

# The Father of American Terrorism

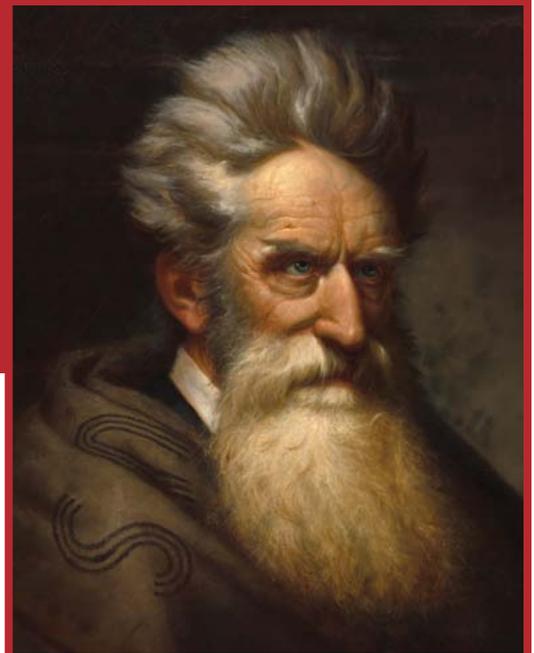
## Guiding Questions

Was John Brown a hero or a terrorist?

Did the raid on Harper's Ferry accomplish anything?

## Question Focus Example for Task 24

Violent resistance to government action  
can be necessary to create change.



John Brown, the Abolitionist.

## Teacher-to-Teacher

Students should have background knowledge in the sectional conflicts over slavery prior to the Civil War, especially the violent events in “Bleeding Kansas.” Teachers might want to begin by showing students two visual depictions of John Brown—one as the fiery giant in Kansas and one as the gentle martyr before execution. Ask students why there might be such divergent views of John Brown in history. After reading the article and primary sources, students can consider if John Brown’s actions were justified. Teachers can conclude the lesson by asking students to design a National Park Service plaque for John Brown at Harper’s Ferry. How should we remember John Brown?

## Contents

- ★ **The Father of American Terrorism**  
by Ken Chowder ARTICLE
- ★ **Tragic Prelude** IMAGE
- ★ **John Brown** IMAGE
- ★ **John Brown’s Speech to the Court at His Trial** DOCUMENT
- ★ **The Insurrection** DOCUMENT
- ★ **John Brown: An Address by Frederick Douglass** DOCUMENT
- ★ **Glory Hally, Hallelujah or John Brown’s Song** DOCUMENT
- ★ **John Brown’s Entrance into Hell** DOCUMENT

**fourscore**  
make history

## Recommended Instructional Strategies

### **Task 1**

Wrestle with an Argument:  
Close Reading of an Argumentative Text

### **Task 8**

Analyze and Compare Author Purpose

### **Task 10**

Question the Author

### **Task 23**

Identifying Claim and Evidence

### **Task 24**

QFT (Question Focus Technique)

### **Task 25**

Document Sourcing