

Contextualization Questions

Sample: Nat Turner

How do these sources shape our beliefs about Nat Turner?

Which source is the most reliable? Why?

Which source is the least reliable? Why?

How should we remember the actions of an enslaved man, who led an ultimately unsuccessful rebellion of slaves?

Sources:

John W. Cromwell-“The Aftermath of Nat Turner’s Insurrection,” *The Journal of Negro History*, 1920.

An African American teacher, writer, and political activist. Was one of the first to write in what will eventually be called African American History.

Herbert Aptheker, *American Negro Slave Revolts*, 1943.

Hated segregation and racial stereotypes, believed that slavery was exploitive and that slave rebellions occurred frequently. Was a committed socialist and believed that class antagonisms were important to understanding the past.

The Richmond Enquirer and Richmond Whig, 1831

Both newspapers were published in a southern city and were read widely by planters throughout the region. Tended to promote the political views of the upper-class planters who paid to subscribe to the paper.

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Thomas R. Grey, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, 1831.

After his capture and arrest on October 30, 1831, Nat Turner was imprisoned in the Southampton County Jail, where he was interviewed by Thomas R. Gray, a Southern physician. Grey stated that only Turner's words were recorded but in several instances Grey's words appear in the "Confessions."

Name _____
 Advisory _____
 Date _____

US History RAP 1: Rebellion
 Due: August 26, 2013

Purpose: How should we remember the actions of an enslaved man who led an ultimately unsuccessful rebellion of slaves?

You have been commissioned by the state of Virginia Historical Trust to develop an historical marker that will be placed along the roadside adjacent to the area to the area impacted by Nat Turner and his followers. Your task is to develop the inscription for the marker that describes your interpretation of Nat Turner and his actions. Your inscriptions should take into account:

- The specific factors involved in the event
- The various reactions to Nat Turner (artistic, and other)

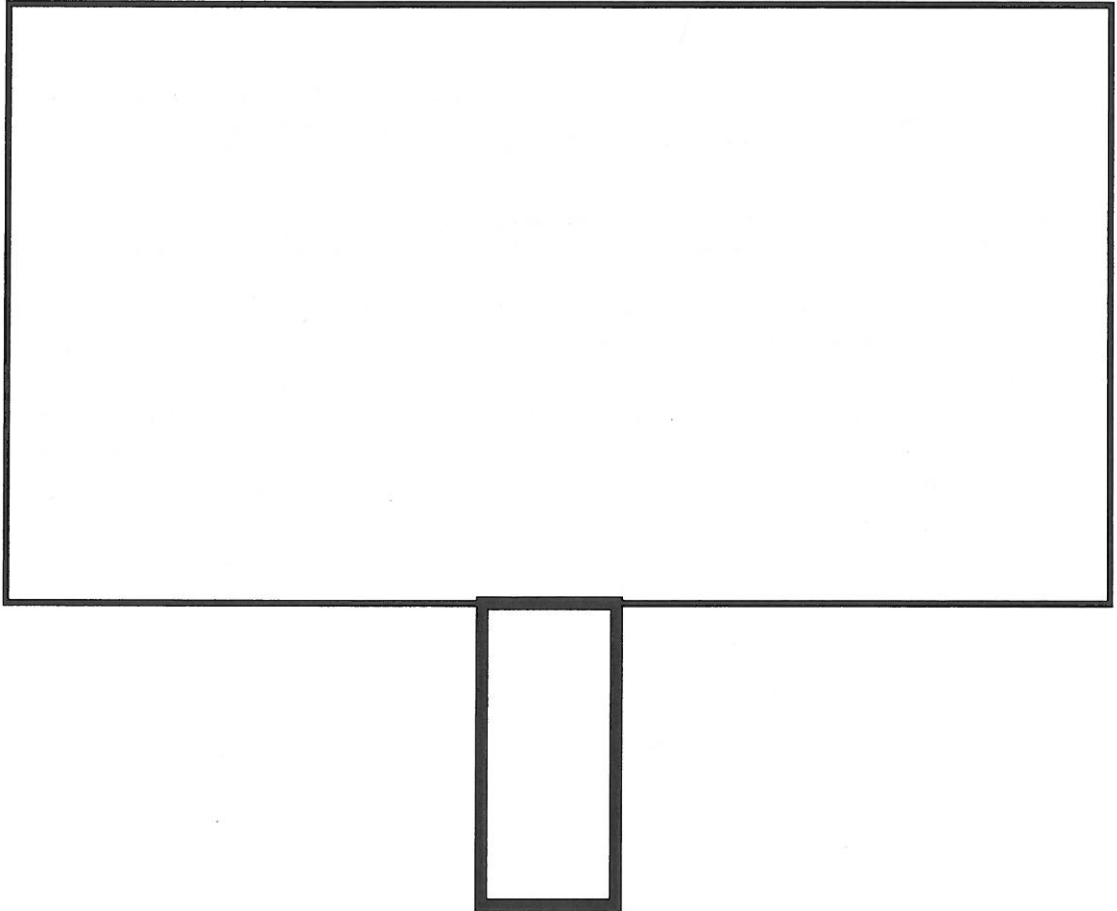
First, go back to all of your sources. Brainstorm a list of facts from each source that you will include. Since this is a list, you do not need full sentences. You should have a *minimum* of two facts or interpretations per source.

Source: Nat Turner textbook reading Where to find it: Binder, Section 3: Sources	Source: Images Where to find them: at your table	Source: Documents 1-6 Where to find them: History Lab Packet

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Why I came to this decision (What documents most impacted your decisions and why): _____
