

**Highlight or underline that the text will help you answer your Supporting and Compelling Questions. Take notes on the side and explain why the examples are important.**

### HISTORY NEWS TONIGHT

#### TOP SECRET LETTER

Dear Historical Scene Investigators:

your mission is to make connections between the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the series of conflicts known as “Bleeding Kansas”. Your packet includes different pieces of evidence that will help you determine how the two are related. The History News team has hired your HSI team to help them write a story about the two events. Your article will not only be read by millions online, but it will more importantly help reveal the importance that these two events had leading up to the Civil War.

Best of luck,

EVIDENCE 1

PAINTING: *TRAGIC PRELUDE*

**Background:** This famous painting by the artist John Stuart Curry is meant to symbolize the violent conflict in Kansas during the 1850s.

John Brown



Antislavery forces

Victims of the conflict

Proslavery forces

## LIST OF THE VICTIMS

**Background:** These are some of the real people who were killed in Kansas during the violent conflict between pro-slavery and antislavery forces

31. Unidentified man (proslavery).  
Killed by a party led by John Brown (antislavery).  
August 30, 1856, Osawatomie, Lykins (Miami) County.  
Killed during the Battle of Osawatomie.
32. Unidentified man (proslavery).  
Killed by a party led by John Brown (antislavery).  
August 30, 1856, Osawatomie, Lykins (Miami) County.  
Killed during the Battle of Osawatomie.
33. George Partridge (antislavery).  
Killed by a party led by Martin White and John W. Reid (proslavery).  
August 30, 1856, Osawatomie, Lykins (Miami) County.  
Shot during the Battle of Osawatomie.
34. William Williams (antislavery).  
Killed by a party led by Martin White and John W. Reid (proslavery).  
August 30, 1856, probably Lykins (Miami) County.  
Killed after being taken prisoner during the Battle of Osawatomie.
35. Theron P. Powers (antislavery).  
Killed by a party led by Martin White and John W. Reid (proslavery).  
August 30, 1856, Osawatomie, Lykins (Miami) County.  
Shot during the Battle of Osawatomie.
36. Charley Keiser (antislavery).  
Killed by Kickapoo Rangers (proslavery).  
September 1, 1856, Lykins (Miami) County.  
Shot after the Battle of Osawatomie.
39. William Phillips (antislavery).  
Killed by a party led by Frederick Emory (proslavery).  
September 1, 1856, Leavenworth.  
Shot resisting Emory's attempt to drive him out of town.
40. Sarah Carver (proslavery).  
Killed by unidentified attackers (antislavery).  
About September 10, 1856, Lyon County.  
Shot during an attack on her husband.
41. Charles G. Newall (Newell) (proslavery).  
Killed by John Kagi, A.J. Patrick, or Thomas W. Porterfield (antislavery).  
September 15, 1856, Jefferson County.  
Killed by a cannon shot during the Battle of Hickory Point.
42. David C. Buffum (antislavery).  
Killed by Charles Hays (proslavery).  
September 16, 1856, Douglas County.  
Shot by proslavery forces attempting to take his horse.<sup>26</sup>
43. William T. Sherrard (proslavery).  
Killed by John A.W. Jones (antislavery).  
February 18, 1857, Lecompton, Douglas County.  
Shot while participating in a gunfight at a political meeting.
44. James T. Lyle (proslavery).  
Killed by William Haller (antislavery).  
June 29, 1857, Leavenworth County.  
Killed after stabbing Haller during a dispute at an election.

## THE HOWARD COMMITTEE

## EVIDENCE 3

**Background:** The Howard Committee was a special Congressional committee organized to investigate illegal voting activity in Kansas. The text below is a section from the committee's report.

## VOCABULARY

Artillery: weapons  
Bowie knives: special type of knife  
Commenced: started  
Hoisted: raise up  
Musket balls: bullets

Obliged: force someone to do something  
Pistols: guns  
Polls: a place to vote  
Prescribed: directed to do something  
Ravine: A valley

The evening before, and the morning of the day of the election, about one thousand men arrived at Lawrence, and camped in a ravine a short distance from the town, and near the place of voting. They came, in wagons (of which there were over one hundred) or on horseback, under the command of Colonel Samuel Young, of Boone County, Missouri, and Claiborne F. Jackson, of Missouri. They were armed with guns, rifles, pistols and bowie knives; and had tents, music and flags with them. They brought with them two pieces of artillery, loaded with musket balls.

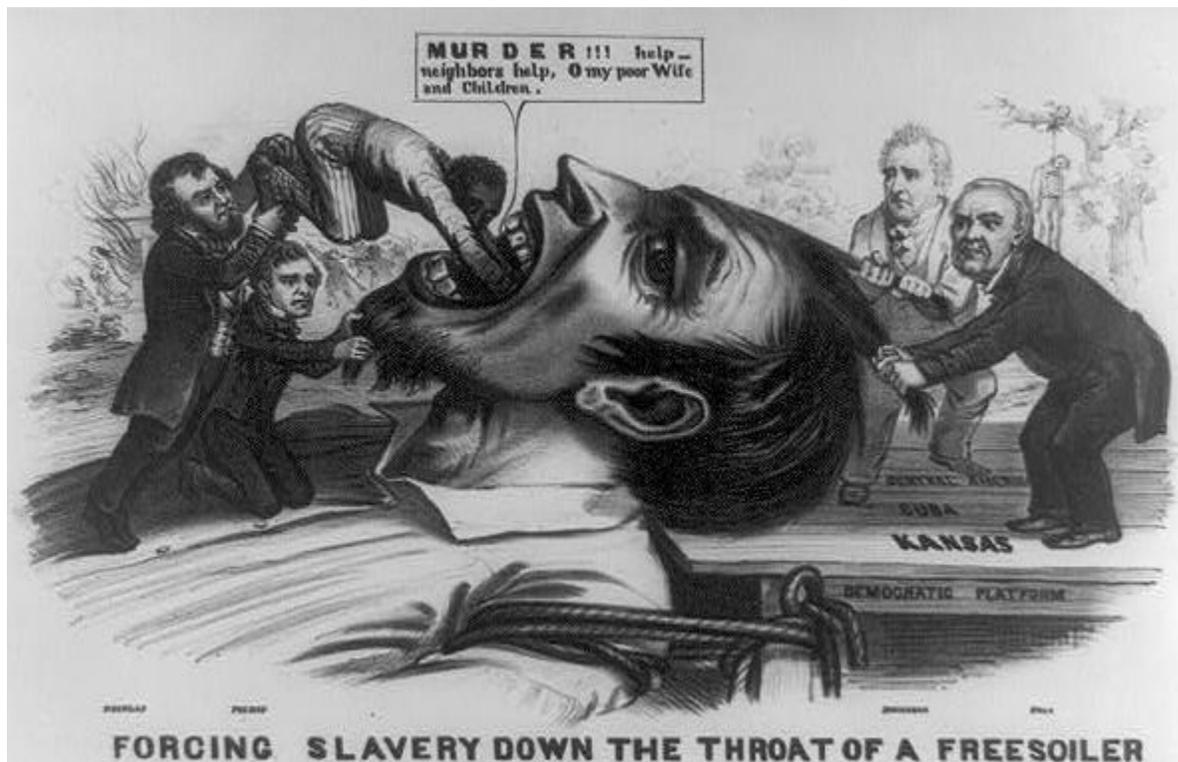
When the voting commenced, . . . Colonel Young offered to vote. He refused to take the oath prescribed by the governor, but said he was a resident of the territory. He told Mr. Abbott, one of the judges, when asked if he intended to make Kansas his future home, that it was none of his business; if he were a resident then he should ask no more. After his vote was received, Colonel Young got upon the window sill and announced to the crowd that he had been permitted to vote, and they could all come up and vote. He told the judges that there was no use swearing the others, as they would all swear as he had. After the other judges had concluded to receive Colonel Young's vote, Mr. Abbott resigned as judge of election, and Mr. Benjamin was elected in his place.

The polls were so much crowded till late in the evening that for a time they were obliged to get out by being hoisted up on the roof of the building, where the election was being held, and passing out over the house. Afterwards a passageway was made through the crowd by two lines of men being formed, through which voters could get to the polls. Colonel Young asked that the old men be allowed to go up first and vote, as they were tired with the traveling, and wanted to get back to camp. During the day the Missourians drove off the ground some of the citizens, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Bond and Mr. Willis. They threatened to shoot Mr. Bond, and made a rush after him, threatening him. As he ran from them, shots were fired at him as he jumped off the bank of the river and escaped.

## EVIDENCE 4

## POLITICAL CARTOON

**Background:** This was a political cartoon from 1854. The Giant represents a Freesoiler from Kansas, someone opposed to slavery, and the men holding him down are all prominent members of the Democratic party.



## EVIDENCE 5

## KANSAS MATTERS – APPEAL TO THE SOUTH.

To the People of the South: On the undersigned, managers of the “Lafayette Emigration Society,” has devolved the important duty of calling the attention of the people of the slave-holding States, to the absolute necessity of immediate action on their part, in relation to the settlement of Kansas Territory. The crisis is at hand. Prompt and decisive measures must be adopted, or farewell to southern rights and independence. The western counties of Missouri have, for the last two years, been heavily taxed, both in money and time, in fighting the battles of the South. Lafayette county alone has expended more than \$100,000 in money, and as much, or more, in time. Up to this time, the border counties of Missouri have upheld and maintained the rights and interests of the South in this struggle, unassisted, and unsuccessfully. But the abolitionists, staking their all upon the Kansas issue, and hesitating at no means, fair or foul, are moving heaven and earth to render that beautiful Territory not only a “free State,” so called, but a den of negro thieves and “higher law” incendiaries.

Missouri, we feel confident, has done her duty, and will still be found ready and willing to do all she can, fairly and honorably, for the maintenance of the integrity of the South. But the time has come when she can no longer stand up, single handed, the lone champion of the South, against the myrmidons of the entire North. It requires no great foresight to perceive that if the “higher law” men succeed in this crusade, it will be but the commencement of a war upon the institutions of the South, which will continue until slavery shall cease to exist in any of the States, or the Union is dissolved.

How, then, shall these impending evils be avoided? The answer is obvious. Settle the Territory with emigrants from the south. The population of the Territory at this time is about equal – as many pro-slavery settlers as abolitionists; but the fanatics have emissaries in all the free States – in almost every village – and by misrepresentation and falsehood are engaged in collecting money and enlisting men to tyrannize over the south. Is it in the nature of southern men to submit without resistance, to look to the north for their laws and institutions? We do not believe it! If, then, the south is influenced by a spirit of self-respect and independence, let societies be formed to assist emigrants. Those who cannot emigrate can contribute money to assist those who can. We have such societies in Missouri, and we can induce more people to emigrate than we are able to support. If the whole south would adopt this system, we would succeed; Kansas would be a slave State, and the slavery agitation would cease. If we permit the north to make an abolition State of Kansas, the whole south must submit to be governed by the north. Will the south help us?

## EVIDENCE 6

To the People of Massachusetts:

Fellow Citizens:

The recent aggression of the Slave Power, in repealing that section of the Missouri Compromise Act which prohibited Slavery in Kansas and Nebraska, calls for instant and effective action on the part of all sincere friends of Freedom. It is evident that the Slave Power keeps no faith, and abides by no compact; that it respects no compromises, but is ready to trample alike on law, justice, and right, to accomplish its designs.

The violation of the Missouri Compromise, has put an end to the whole system of Congressional compacts between Freedom and Slavery, and in all questions now pending, or that may arise hereafter, between them, the people of the Free States stand only on the solid ground of the Constitution, and are bound only by its provisions, and by their own sense of what justice and the national welfare demand.

Emboldened by success, and relying upon the apathy or corruption of the North, the leading Southern presses and politicians openly avow their intention of procuring, by purchase or by war, Cuba, Hayti, the northern provinces of Mexico and the valley of the Amazon, for the purpose of forming a great slaveholding empire, and thus forever counterbalancing or overwhelming the influence of Freedom in the national councils.

To resist and defeat these schemes, THE NORTH MUST BE UNITED. The question of Freedom must be made paramount to all other political questions. The prohibition of Slavery in Kansas and Nebraska, must be restored. The extension of Slavery must be checked at all hazards; the system itself denationalized, and the Federal Government brought back to its original and proper policy of Freedom.

To this end, Conventions of the people have been already called in Vermont, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin, while others of the Free States are preparing for similar action. Believing that Massachusetts is equally ready to go forward in the movement, we invite our fellow citizens, without distinction of party, to assemble in Mass Convention at Worcester, on Thursday, July 20th, 1854, to consult together, and take such action as the crisis requires.

- Author unknown, 1855