

7th Grade Uncle Tom's Cabin Inquiry

Compelling Question	Can words lead to war?			
New York State Social Studies Framework Key Idea(s) & Practices	7.7 REFORM MOVEMENTS: Social, political, and economic inequalities sparked various reform movements and resistance efforts. Influenced by the Second Great Awakening, New York played a key role in major reform efforts. <i>Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence; Chronological Reasoning and Causation; Comparison and Contextualization</i>			
Staging the Question	Consider the power of words and examine a video of students using words to try and bring about positive change.			
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4	
How did Harriet Beecher Stowe describe slavery in <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ?	What led Harriet Beecher Stowe to write <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ?	How did Northerners and Southerners react to <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ?	What was the impact of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> on abolitionism?	
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	
Summarize the plot of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , and identify main ideas and supporting details from Stowe's description of slavery in <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> .	Identify four quotes in the sources that point to Stowe's motivation and write a paragraph explaining her motivation.	Compare the viewpoints expressed in Northern and Southern newspapers using a T-chart and make a claim about the differences.	Participate in a structured discussion regarding the impact <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> had on abolitionism.	
Featured Source	Featured Source	Featured Source	Featured Source	
Source A: Summary of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Source B: Excerpts from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> Source C: Illustrations from <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	Source A: <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin- Chapter XLV: Concluding Remarks</i> by Harriet Beecher Stowe Source B: Letter from Harriet Beecher Stowe to Lord Thomas Denman, 1853	Source A: <i>The Morning Post</i> "W. B. S." Boston, May, 1852 Source B: <i>Southern Press Review</i> , Unsigned, 1852	Source A: Charles Sumner quote from the Senate, 1852 Source B: <i>The Liberator</i> John Ball, Jr. Boston: 8 September 1854 Source C: Sales of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	
Summative Performance Task	Can words lead to war? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that discusses the impact of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical sources while acknowledging competing views.			
Taking Informed Action	Understand: Identify and describe a modern issue that needs reform (e.g. child labor, trafficking, or poverty). Assess: Create a list of possible actions that involve words. This may include letters, editorials, social media, videos, and protests. Act: Choose one of the options and implement it as an individual, small group, or class project.			