

***Tragic Prelude* by John Steuart Curry**

This mural is located in the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka.

It shows John Brown, an abolitionist, during the time called “Bleeding Kansas.” This mural has many examples of symbolism.

Study the painting then match the description with the symbol that Curry used to represent his ideas. Place the letter in the box next to the correct symbol. When you have finished you may color the picture on the other side.



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Symbol		Representation
	1. Tornado	a. The weapons that were sent to Kansas to help the freestaters fight the proslavery forces
	2. Pioneers with oxen and wagon	b. The Kansas state flower
	3. Sharps rifle	c. Representing more than 600,000 who died during the Civil War
	4. Union flag	d. The Christian book of God with Greek letters representing the beginning and ending of slavery
	5. John Brown with blood on his hands	e. Represents the fiery destruction the Civil War would cause
	6. Union and Confederate soldiers' bodies	f. A force of nature representing the gathering storms of the Civil War
	7. Bible with alpha and omega	g. The Southern Cross, the battle flag of the South
	8. Confederate flag	h. The fighting in Kansas and eventually the entire Civil War centered around these people
	9. Enslaved African Americans	i. The steady stream of settlers moving West
	10. Prairie fire	j. Represents the North in the Civil War
	11. Sunflowers	k. The abolitionist who wanted Kansas to be a free state no matter how much it cost

When you return to your classroom your class might want to discuss why you think Curry portrayed John Brown as such a large, forceful man.

