

***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 and find the symbols that Curry used.

Write the answers in the column to the left of the description.

When you have finished you may color the picture on the other side.



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Symbol		Event in Kansas leading to the Civil War
1.		Items that were sent to freestaters in Kansas to fight the proslavery forces.
2.		This grew wild in the ruts of wagon trains and became one of our state’s symbols.
3.		This represents the more than 600,000 who died during the Civil War.
4.		This contains the word of the Christian God with the Greek letters representing the beginning (alpha – A) and ending (omega – Ω) of slavery.
5.		Curry used this to represent the fiery destruction caused by the Civil War.
6.		This represents the gathering storms of the Civil War.
7.		The Southern Cross represents the Confederate States of America.
8.		The fighting in Kansas and eventually the entire Civil War centered on these people.
9.		This method of transportation represents the journey of settlers to the West.
10.		This is the symbol that represents the North (the Union) in the Civil War.
11.		This abolitionist wanted Kansas to be a free state, no matter the cost.

When you return to your classroom your class might want to discuss whether Curry portrayed John Brown as a martyr or a terrorist.

Key: 1. Sharps rifles; 2. Sunflowers; 3. Bodies of Confederate and Union soldiers; 4. Bible; 5. Prairie fire; 6. Tornado; 7. Confederate flag; 8. African American slaves; 9. Wagons; 10. Union flag; 11. John Brown

