

Osawatomie, Kansas
1856 - 1910 - 2011

Name _____
Period ____

In 1856, **John Brown** was in Osawatomie. The events of that time became known as **Bleeding Kansas**. The Kansas-Nebraska Act had been passed in 1854. Border ruffians crossed into Kansas to vote, as the decision over whether Kansas would be admitted as a free or slave state was to be made by "popular sovereignty." There was fighting between pro-slavery men and anti-slavery men. This fighting was dramatically escalated when John Brown and his sons invaded the cabins of some pro-slavery men, killing five of them. Border ruffians retaliated, killing five of Brown's men, including one of his sons, and burning the town of Osawatomie. Later that year, Brown and his men crossed into Missouri, freed some slaves, and helped them escape to Canada.

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| What meaning(s) do you take from John Brown's activities in and around Osawatomie, Kansas? | |
| What connections can you draw between John Brown's activities in Osawatomie and his activities in Harpers Ferry, Virginia in 1859? | |

In 1910, **Theodore Roosevelt** travelled to Osawatomie, Kansas to give his **New Nationalism** speech. The occasion was the dedication of the new John Brown Memorial State Park. The story of how TR came to be there is an interesting one. The town was planning this celebration, and one of the town boosters knew that Roosevelt was planning a trip to the West in the late summer. The town leaders decided to ask TR to speak, and they persuaded Governor Stubbs to extend the invitation. TR was at that time on Safari in central Africa. (He was no longer president, remember.) When he came out of Africa, he went to Italy - where Governor Stubbs' telegram found him. But Stubbs was not confident that an invitation from him would be enough, so he also sent a telegram to none other than Gifford Pinchot, whom he knew was waiting in Italy to meet with Roosevelt. (Why? He wanted to complain to TR, his former "patron," about the fact that President Taft had just fired him. I'm not sure what he thought TR would do for him.) At the end of the meeting, Pinchot personally invited Roosevelt to the dedication ceremony at Osawatomie, and Roosevelt accepted. The speech he gave became known as the "New Nationalism" speech.

READ THE TEXT OF ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH, AND (on separate paper) TAKE NOTES ON:

- THE SPECIFIC THINGS HE CALLS FOR
- ANY REFERENCES TO HISTORICAL FIGURES
- THE THEMES YOU DETECT IN THE SPEECH

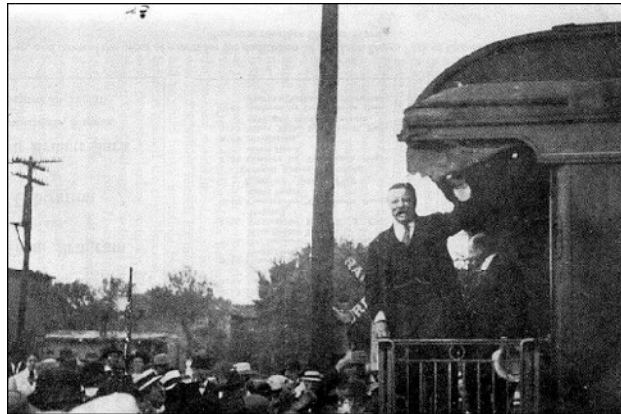
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| What links can you draw between John Brown and Teddy Roosevelt? How does TR himself reference John Brown in his speech? | |
| Why was Theodore Roosevelt, who had left the presidency in 1909, giving a political speech like this in 1910? | |

On December 6, 2011, **President Barack Obama** also travelled to Osawatomie to deliver a speech. This was no mere coincidence.

READ THE TEXT OF OBAMA’S SPEECH, AND (on separate paper) TAKE NOTES ON:

- THE SPECIFIC THINGS HE CALLS FOR
- ANY REFERENCES TO HISTORICAL FIGURES
- THE THEMES YOU DETECT IN THE SPEECH

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| <p>Why do you think President Obama decided to travel to Osawatomie to deliver his speech?</p> | |
| <p>What links can you draw between Obama’s and Roosevelt’s speeches? How does Obama himself reference TR?</p> | |
| <p>Why do you think President Obama does not refer to John Brown in his speech?</p> | |
| <p>What title do you think historians will give to President Obama’s speech (other than “The Osawatomie Speech”)?</p> | |



BE SURE TO STAPLE YOUR NOTES FROM BOTH SPEECHES TO THIS PAPER BEFORE YOU TURN IT IN.