Blacks in the Military Five Day RST

From Prince Estabrook to Colin Powell
Grade 6 Social Studies and English Language Arts

Name _____ Date _____ Section _____

Study combat, espionage, migration, leadership, and the struggle for equal treatment. Complete separate Do Nows and Quick Writes on all five days, evidence responses and exit responses on Days 1 through 4, and the independent assessment on Day 5.

Central question

How did location, place, region, movement, and human environment interaction influence Black military participation and the struggle for equal opportunity?

Five themes

Location identifies where service occurred. Place examines a battlefield, harbor, training site, or community. Region compares the Caribbean, American colonies, and later military settings. Movement traces people, information, and supplies. Human environment interaction examines river crossings, navigation, fortifications, and the effects of expansion on land.

Map preparation

Use classroom maps of the United States, Caribbean, and world. Locate Lexington, Boston, Trenton, the Delaware River, Yorktown, North Carolina, Charleston, Tuskegee, Pearl Harbor, France, Vietnam, and Port of Spain on Trinidad. Identify a map’s title, date, and key. Modern borders may differ from borders during the period studied.

Evidence expectations

Cite a numbered source and passage, such as 1E or 3F. Distinguish contemporary records, later memories, family testimony, and historical interpretation. Do not infer a person’s unit from another person’s biography. The readings are original instructional summaries, with two clearly labeled short primary source excerpts. References and historical notes appear in the separate teacher guide.

Family history connections

Terrence Knox’s family accounts of Ed Norman and William Henry Knox connect Civil War and World War I service across generations. These accounts are attributed to the family. The packet preserves the supplied details while identifying what additional records could establish.

Day 1 Black service in the American Revolution

Compare battlefield and intelligence service using three named participants and explain a conflict between liberty and enslavement.

Do Now

What kinds of work besides fighting might help an army win a war?

Key vocabulary and word origins

Militia means a military force drawn from a community. The word comes from Latin militia meaning military service.

Espionage means secretly gathering information about an opponent. The word entered English through French espionnage.

Intelligence means information collected and evaluated to guide decisions.

Manumission means the legal freeing of an enslaved person. Latin manus means hand and mittere means to release.

Source 1 Black service in the American Revolution

1A Black participation in the American Revolution began before George Washington took command of the Continental Army in July 1775. On April 19, Prince Estabrook, an enslaved man, stood with Lexington's militia and was wounded. He recovered and served again. His presence places Black military participation at the opening of the war, while his enslaved condition reveals a conflict between the language of liberty and the lives of many people.

1B Peter Salem and Salem Poor were different men. Both fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. Much of the battle took place on Breed's Hill near Boston. Salem Poor had purchased his freedom before the war. Officers later petitioned Massachusetts authorities to recognize his conduct. Peter Salem's service also became part of the battle's remembered history. Claims about which soldier fired a particular fatal shot remain debated, so their documented participation should not depend on accepting a disputed story.

The five themes in this history

1G Geographic interpretation. Location connects the Boston area, Trenton, and Yorktown to different campaigns. Place includes fortified hills and river banks where terrain affected action. Region distinguishes the northern colonies from the Virginia campaign and their different military settings. Movement includes troops crossing rivers and intelligence passing between James and Lafayette. Human environment interaction includes fortifications and adapting transport to waterways. Geography influenced the work soldiers and spies performed, but did not explain racial exclusion by itself.