

Fort Davis

National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Curriculum Materials Grades 6-8

Teacher Notes: Second Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper

Topic: Students will be introduced to the first African-American to graduate from West Point, Second Lieutenant Henry Ossian Flipper.

Objectives and Standards: Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/>

Grade 6

Health Education (115.22) 10,11

Social Studies (113.22) 2, 14

Grade 7

Health Education (115.23) 11,12

Social Studies (113.23) 21,23

Grade 8

Health Education (115.23) 11,12

Social Studies (113.24) 17, 30

Materials Needed: Student activity handout, pen or pencil, Internet access--optional.

Lesson Activities:

Historic readings: "Buffalo Soldiers," Cobblestone Magazine, Feb. 1995.

Some excellent material may be found at www.Buffalosoldier.net, but not all of the material is usable for students. National Park Service brochure, at

http://www.nps.gov/foda/Fort_Davis_WEB_PAGE/About_the_Fort/Flipper_Site_Bulletin_WEB_PAGE2.htm

Activities and Projects: Students will answer questions at the end of the student activity reading. After answering the questions, orally or in writing, the students may share their opinions with their classmates. Students may choose to look up Lt. Flipper in the Online Texas Handbook.

A discussion of Lt. Flipper's behavior at West Point and later success after his court martial may be used to include comments about positive personal response to a difficult situation.

Those students especially interested in this case, may want to research the difference between a military court martial and a regular civil trial.

Answer Key:

1. U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He was the first black graduate of West Point.
2. He was in charge of the commissary.
3. Perhaps he gave "credit" to help the soldiers. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.
4. He was convicted of lying to his commanding officer.
5. Accept any answer that exhibits an understanding of the subject matter.

Wrap-up and Assessment: Ask students, "What advice would you give Lt. Flipper if you had been his friend at Fort Davis?" This could be done as an oral or written response. The written responses could be read aloud, without identifying the writer if the teacher chooses to do so.