



BUFFALO SOLDIERS

at Fort Davis, Texas 1867 - 1885

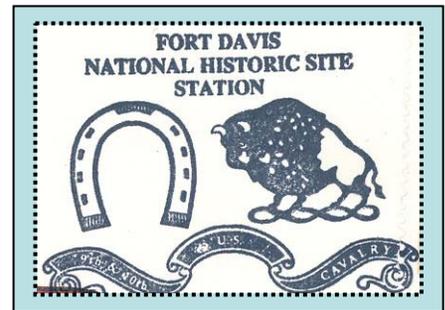
Buffalo Soldiers Curricular Project + Activities

Message for Teachers,

This curricular project was designed with two main objectives:

Primary - To gain an overview of major historic events and identify significant achievements of the *Buffalo Soldiers*.

Secondary - Realizing how little free time you have to include supplemental curriculum, the activities included draw from the *Buffalo Soldiers* content area, then coordinate with the language arts, social studies, and technology applications requirements of the [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills \(TEKS\)](#) 2nd → 5th grades.



DIRECTIONS: - First, read and discuss this *Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Davis, 1867-1885* slide presentation. After viewing, choose any of the language arts activities to coordinate with present classroom needs. The slide show alternates between “ **gold-colored** slides to read” and “ **blue-colored** activity slides.” Students may read all the way through by following the **gold links**. Or, students may read each slide, then follow the **blue links** to access assorted language arts activities. Print your choice of **blue-colored** activity worksheets for student use.



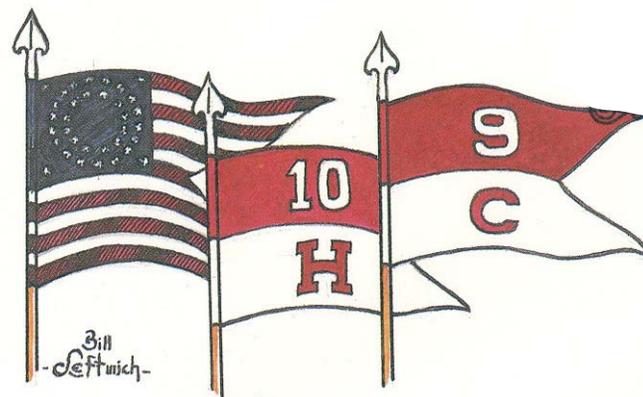
BUFFALO SOLDIERS

at Fort Davis, Texas 1867 - 1885

Objectives and Standards - *Correlated with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)* [Link to document](#)

Materials Needed

- PowerPoint Presentation
- Computer access with Internet link
- Printer to print out activity sheets
- Scissors to cut out activity sheets



List of Lesson *Buffalo Soldiers* Projects + Activities

1. **Why the Term *Buffalo Soldiers*?** – Fill-in Blank Cloze Activity
2. **Volunteer Soldiers** – Vocabulary and Timeline Activities
3. **Soldiers in the Regular Army** – Timeline Activity
4. **Walking in His Boots** – Job Finding Writing Activity
5. ***Buffalo Soldiers - Friends & Foes*** – Name Game Activity
6. **MORE Activities and Projects** – Varied Activities

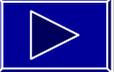
BUFFALO SOLDIERS

at Fort Davis, Texas 1867 - 1885

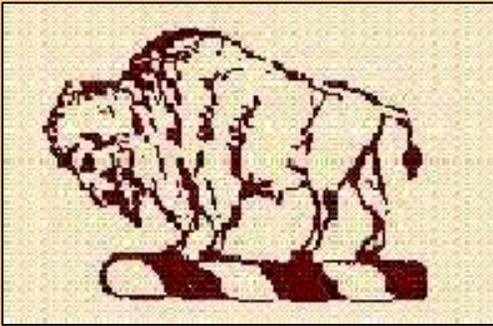


Fort Davis Buffalo Soldier
James Thompson,
Company K, 9th Cavalry

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Gold=READ 	Blue=ACTIVITY 
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Why the Term <i>Buffalo Soldiers</i> ?	 
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Why the Term "Buffalo Soldiers"?



Modern-Day Crest
of the 10th Cavalry

The term *Buffalo Soldiers* generally refers to the African-American soldiers who served in the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars period from 1866-1891.

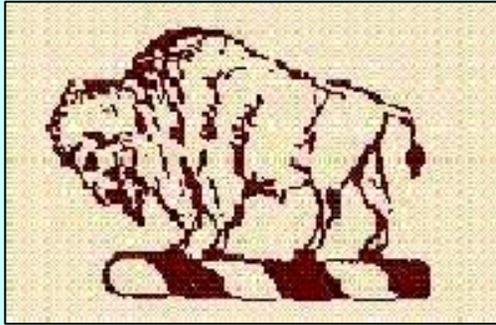
The origin of the term *Buffalo Soldiers* is uncertain, but is believed to refer to the similarity between the hair of the African-American soldier and the fur of the buffalo.

A second common explanation is that Native Americans called them *Buffalo Soldiers* because they associated the fighting spirit of African-American soldiers with the sacred buffalo.

Buffalo Soldiers is often used by writers to describe *all* African-American troops.

African-American soldiers seldom (in the 1800s) used the term *Buffalo Soldier* themselves, but they did accept the name as complimentary.

Why the Term "Buffalo Soldiers"?



Modern-Day Crest
of the 10th Cavalry

DIRECTIONS: (answers – slide 4)

1.) The term *Buffalo Soldiers* generally refers to the A_____ - A_____ soldiers who served in the U.S. Army during the I_____ W_____ period from 18__ - 18__.

2.) The origin of the term *Buffalo Soldiers* is not certain, but is believed to refer to the similarity between the h____ of the African-American soldier and the f____ of the buffalo.

3.) A second common explanation is that N_____ A_____ called them *Buffalo Soldiers* because they associated the f_____ s_____ of African-American soldiers with the sacred buffalo.

4.) *Buffalo Soldiers* is often used by writers to describe a____ African-American troops.

5.) African-American soldiers (in the 1800s) seldom used the term *Buffalo Soldier* themselves, but they did accept the name as c_____.

←
Back

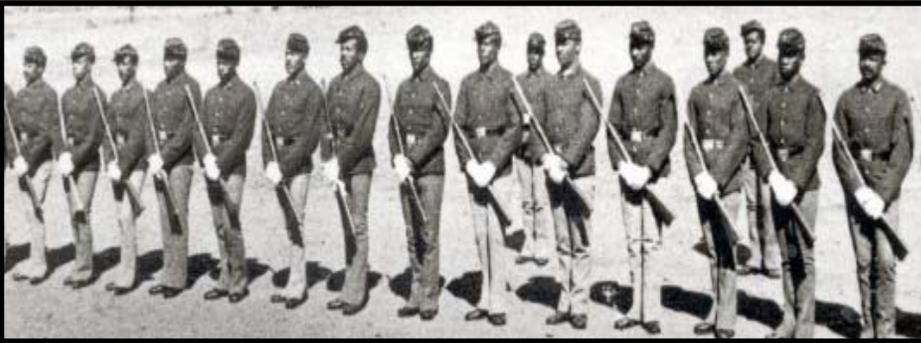
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Volunteer Soldiers



Dismounted cavalry

* African-Americans have played a **major** role in U.S. military history even though they were **originally barred** from serving. Their achievements were often overlooked. At first, they were volunteers and not considered regular members of the U.S. military.

* **Revolutionary War (1775-1781)**. **Approximately** 5000 African Americans fought in the War of Independence in Generals Braddock and George Washington's army.

* **War of 1812 (1812-1815)**. African Americans **comprised** 10% of American **naval** crews. They are well-known for manned defenses against the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

* **Mexican War (1846-1848)**. African Americans valiantly served as volunteer soldiers in the U.S. Army. They **primarily** came from the **rural** South and Midwest.

* **Civil War (1861-1865)**. African Americans made up an estimated 12% (178,895) of the Union Army and 25% (30,000) of the Union Navy. Thousands more served in service **units** as **laborers**. Nearly 200,000 wore the Union blue uniform, and more than 33,000 died in the conflict. (* Define the **blue words** on the next slide!)

Volunteer Soldiers

DIRECTIONS: 3rd → 5th grade levels. Re-read previous page. Use context to determine meaning of following vocabulary words. Print this slide and write answers in column 1.

1. _____	major	A. Formally or allowed
2. _____	originally	B. Main or chief
3. _____	barred	C. Banned or not allowed
4. _____	official	D. Liberty or freedom
5. _____	approximately	E. At first
6. _____	independence	F. About or almost
7. _____	comprised	G. A group or division
8. _____	naval	H. Workers
9. _____	primarily	I. Country, not city
10. _____	rural	J. Above all or mainly
11. _____	unit	K. Sailing or of the navy
12. _____	laborers	L. Contained or made up of

HINT!

Right click on any vocabulary word (using the PowerPoint's normal view) and a menu of synonyms will pop up. Find the answers fast!

ANSWERS →

Volunteer Soldiers

Here are the ANSWERS!

1. J or B	major	Main or chief/Above all or mainly
2. E	originally	At first
3. C	barred	Banned or not allowed
4. A	official	Formally or allowed
5. F	approximately	About or almost
6. D	independence	Liberty or freedom
7. L	comprised	Contained or made up of
8. K	naval	Sailing or of the navy
9. B or J	primarily	Above all or mainly/ Main or chief
10. I	rural	Country, not city
11. G	unit	A group or division
12. H	laborers	Workers

Soldiers in the Regular Army

• It was not until the (1863) **Emancipation Proclamation** that the policy of barring African-American soldiers from serving in the U.S. Regular Army began to change. The Civil War (1861-1865) seemed to require the need for more troops and began to dissolve some of the resistance.



Buffalo soldiers guard US Express Stage

* Following the Civil War (1866) the U.S. Congress passed “The Act to Increase and Fix Military Peace Establishment of the United States.” The law allowed African Americans to officially join the Regular Army. Two cavalry (9th and 10th) and four infantry (38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st) regiments were authorized to be composed solely of African-American enlisted men.

* Three years later (1869), the four infantry regiments merged into two regiments, the 24th and 25th Infantries.

* Each soldier was paid about \$13-\$16 a month, plus room, board, uniforms, and equipment. Enlistment was for 3-5 years. Many of the new regiments were assigned to the western states and territories for service on the American frontier.

(This information applied to most of the Indian Wars period.)

Volunteers --> Regular Army

Revolutionary War
Begins

Revolutionary War
Ends

War of 1812 Begins

U.S. Civil War Ends

Mexican War Begins

Mexican War Ends

War of 1812 Ends

Emancipation
Proclamation

Act to Increase and
Fix Military Peace...

38th- 41st Infantry
merged to form 24th-25th
Infantry Regiments

U.S. Civil War Begins

TIMELINE DIRECTIONS: 3rd → 5th grade levels. Re-read the information from slides five and eight. Pay close attention to the many dates included. Print and cut out BOTH the *light blue dates* and the *dark blue events*.

Slide 6

Slide 9

MATCH them. Align in stair steps.
You will have one leftover!

Date Bank

1846

1812

1810

1861

1848

1865

1815

1775

1863

1866

1781

1869

ANSWERS →

Volunteers --> Regular Army

Timeline ANSWERS

Revolutionary War Begins 1775

Revolutionary War Ends 1781

War of 1812 Begins 1812

War of 1812 Ends 1815

Mexican War Begins 1846

Mexican War Ends 1848

U.S. Civil War Begins 1861

Emancipation Proclamation 1863

U.S. Civil War Ends 1865

Act to Increase/Fix Military Peace... 1866

38^t -41st Infantry Regiments merged to form 24th-25th Infantry Regiments 1869

Slide 6

Slide 9

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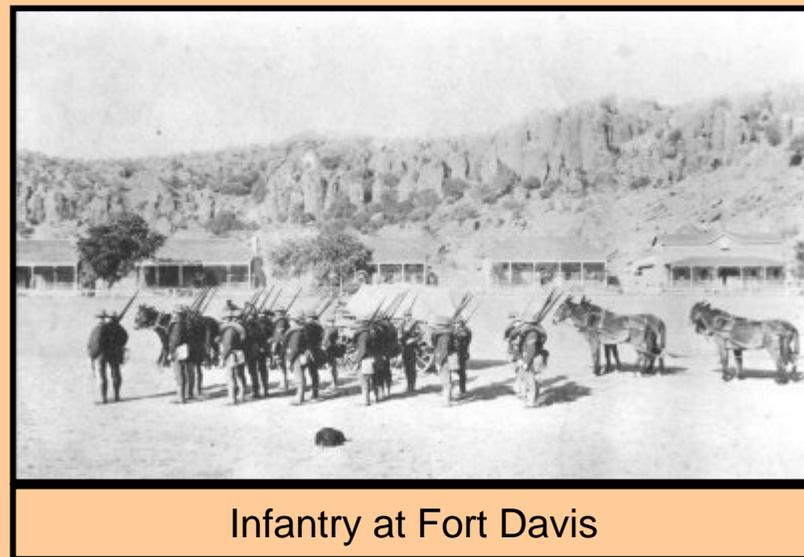
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Walking in His Boots

If you had been a *Buffalo Soldier* at Fort Davis between 1867-1885, your day would be a blend of danger and boredom with an emphasis on strict military discipline. Here's a taste of:

Military Responsibilities

- * Caring for horses
- * Scouting/patrolling
- * Building roads
- * Protecting mail and travel routes
- * Maintaining equipment
- * Providing security for settlers
- * Installing telegraph lines
- * Occasionally, fighting Native Americans
- * Guarding railroad workers
- * Providing protection from outlaws
- * Participating in drills, target practice, inspections
- * Going on reconnaissance missions to gather knowledge of area terrain
- * Returning Native Americans to reservations

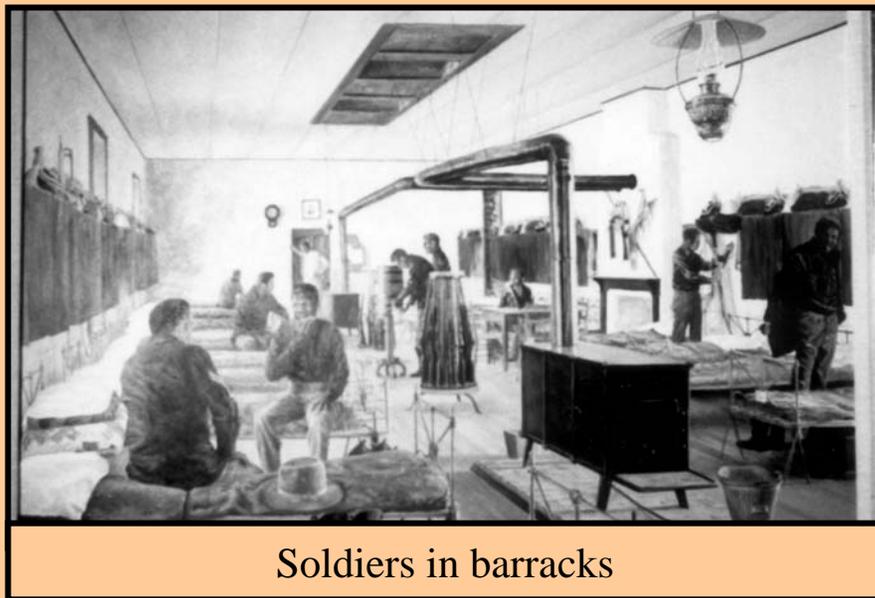


Infantry at Fort Davis

Walking in His Boots

More of a taste of life as a *Buffalo Soldier* at Fort Davis

- * Paid about \$13-\$16 per month
- * Infection from wounds, dysentery, consumption (TB) may threaten your life
- * Food, clothes, housing (often overcrowded) was provided
- * Units segregated (African Americans lived together, whites together)
- * Chaplains taught reading, writing, were responsible for your spiritual well-being
- * May have job specialty like: blacksmith, saddler, wagoner, wheelwright
- * Bugler regulate daily routines (eat, sleep, wake, work)
- * Enlisted for a 3- to 5-year period
- * Subject to discrimination and prejudice
- * May have worried about Indian attacks
- * Horses or your own feet were transportation
- * Officers were white
- * Pastimes – hunt, fish, picnic, play cards
- * Walked to get your water to drink, cook, bathe
- * Boredom frequent



Soldiers in barracks

Walking in His Boots

Getting the JOB?

DIRECTIONS: *3rd → 5th grade levels* Pretend you are very interested in the job of **Buffalo Soldier**. The documents you create are the first writing samples your future employer will see. Re-read [slide 12 & slide 13](#) before choosing one of the following writing activities:

1. Design job ad for a **Buffalo Soldier** position.
2. Create résumé for the **Buffalo Soldier** job.
3. Write letter in response to ad.

Job op!

Suggestions before writing:

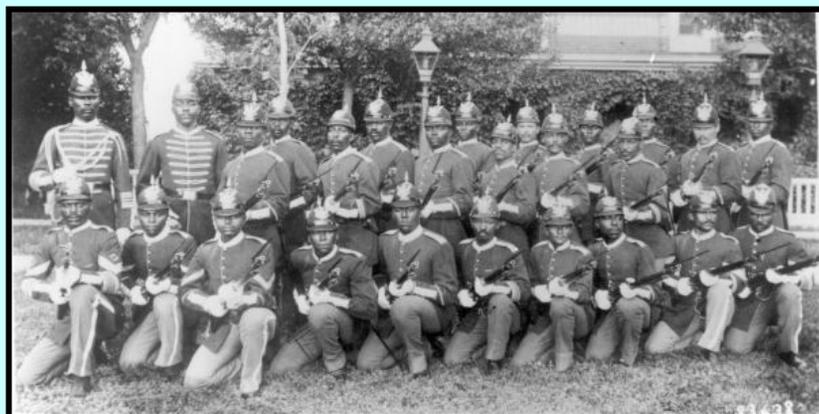
Use information from slides 12 & 13.

Analyze your audience carefully.

Make the documents easy to skim.

Make the documents look professional.

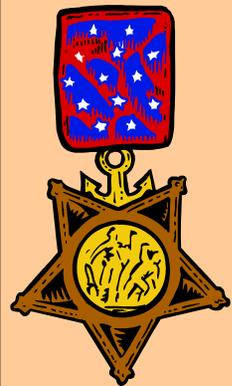
Don't just provide information; make a case.



Cavalry B, 25th Infantry

Buffalo Soldiers - Friends and Foes

When the *Buffalo Soldiers* first came to Fort Davis in 1867, western Texas was a dangerous place to live. Like all soldiers on the frontier, they overcame harsh living conditions and difficult duty in performing their daily job duties. The years 1867-1881 were noted for skirmishes with the Apache and Comanche who were determined to protect and maintain the land. Through their dedicated efforts, the *Buffalo Soldiers* gradually helped establish peace on the western frontier.



Meet the *Buffalo Soldiers*, their friends and foes. Play the “Friends and Foes” NAME GAME! →

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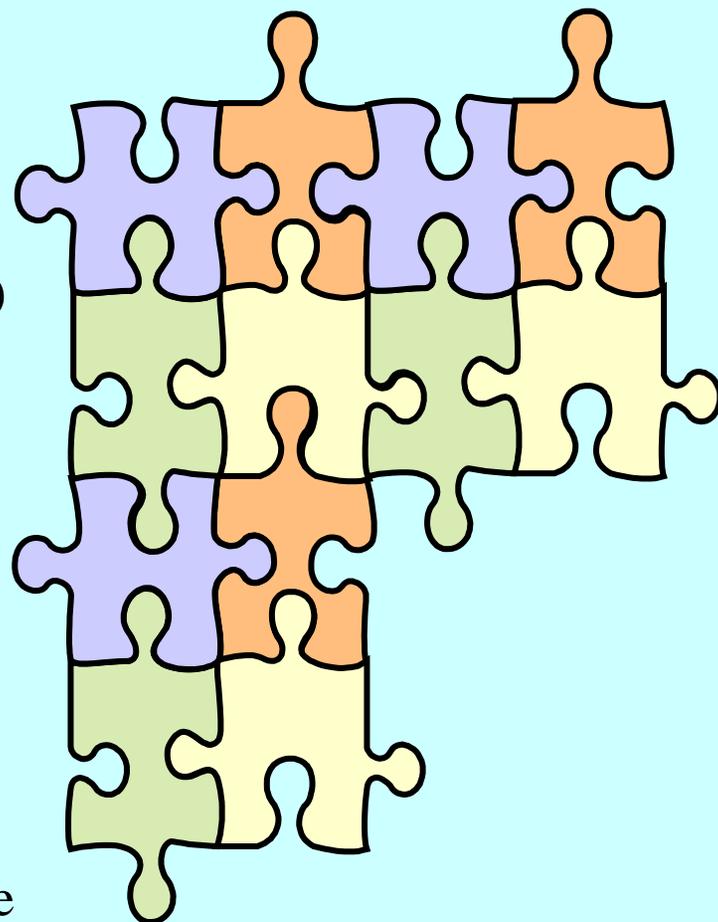
The men who served in the 9th, 10th, 24th, and 25th regiments were instrumental in the settlement of the American frontier. They earned the reputation for loyal and courageous service. Fourteen *Buffalo Soldiers* were recognized for their valor with the *Medal of Honor* (highest award given to a member of the U.S. Armed Services). Many other soldiers distinguished themselves and received the *Certificate of Merit*. Most gained no official recognition for their acts of service and bravery.

Buffalo Soldiers - Friends and Foes

“Friends and Foes” NAME GAME

Directions: *2nd → 5th grade levels*

- ✓ Print slides 17, 18 on cardstock.
(File → Print → Print range = Slides 17-18 → OK)
- ✓ Cut cards along dotted lines.
- ✓ Turn all cards face down in a grid.
- ✓ One at a time, each player turns over 3 cards, trying to uncover at least 2 cards with matching answers (use matching numbers to check).
- ✓ Keep pair if correct. Turn over cards if not.
- ✓ HINT - Concentrate to remember where cards are in grid so you remember on your next turn.
- ✓ Player with most matches WINS!



Enjoy!

Buffalo Soldiers - Friends and Foes

“Friends and Foes” GAME Cards – Follow links to online stories

1. [Emanuel Stance](#)

1. Buffalo Soldier who enlisted as a 19-year farmer and later won the Medal of Honor

2. [George Jordan](#)

2. Buffalo Soldier who defended Tularosa, NM against the Apache leader, Victorio

3. [Thomas Shaw](#)

3. one of the best marksmen in the 9th Cavalry

4. [William McBryar](#)

4. only member of 10th Cavalry to receive Medal of Honor

5. [Benjamin Brown & Isaiah Mays](#)

5. only black infantrymen to receive the Medal of Honor

6. [William O. Wilson](#)

6. last African American to earn Medal of Honor during western Indian Campaigns

7. [Infection from wounds](#)

7. when wounds became infected – DEATH sometimes resulted

8. [Dysentery](#)

8. most common cause of death at Fort Davis was this disease caused by impure water

9. [President Abraham Lincoln](#)

9. signed Emancipation Proclamation to free slaves in areas in rebellion against U.S.

Buffalo Soldiers - Friends and Foes

“Friends and Foes” GAME Cards – Follow links to online stories

10. [Henry O. Flipper](#)

10. Only Black officer to serve at Fort Davis

13. [William Shafter](#)

13. real name of legendary Pecos Bill; he commanded Fort Davis twice

16. [Victorio](#)

16. skilled Apache leader

11. [Wesley Merritt](#)

11. early commander of Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Davis - helped construct new post in 1867

14. [George Andrews, Co. I, 25th Infantry](#)

14. his men constructed 91.5 miles of telegraph line from Fort Davis westward

17. [Loneliness and boredom](#)

17. conditions often endured by soldiers on the frontier

12. [Edward Hatch](#)

12. Fort Davis post commander who ordered 3 expeditions against Mescalero Apaches

15. [Benjamin H. Grierson](#)

15. commander of 10th cavalry for 22 years who had a reputation for fairness

18. [Gonzales, Barr, Mullins, & Weaver](#)

18. chaplains for Fort Davis Buffalo Soldiers

Present-Day Buffalo Soldiers

Tradition of Dedicated Service Continued:

After the *Buffalo Soldiers* of the 9th, 10th, 24th, and 25th regiments were successful in helping to bring peace to the western frontier, they went on to serve in Cuba, Hawaii, the Philippines, and Mexico. No matter where their duty station was located, for many years the *Buffalo Soldier* regiments remained segregated. With only a few exceptions, the regiments had white officers in charge. During the history of their service, the soldiers of these four regiments overcame hardships and established themselves among the most effective military units in the U.S. Army.

Tradition of Dedicated Service STILL Continues Today:

The *Buffalo Soldiers* proved worthy of the nickname bestowed on them by the Native Americans. They served bravely and proudly to settle the American western frontier. Today, there are reenactment groups that continue to keep the history of the *Buffalo Soldiers* alive.



The Nicodemus Buffalo
Soldier Reenactment Group
at Fort Davis

MORE Activities and Projects

Suggestions for MORE Activities and Projects

- ✓ Keep a diary showing what daily life might have been like for a *Buffalo Soldier* living at Fort Davis, 1867-1885.
- ✓ Design a poster to commemorate and honor the *Buffalo Soldiers*.
- ✓ Design a “Historical Marker” commemorating an important Fort Davis event during the time the Buffalo Soldiers served at Fort Davis, 1867-1885.
- ✓ Review the crests and mottos designed for the modern-day 9th and 10th cavalries at: <http://www.zianet.com/wblase/courier/buffalo.htm>. Then, create your own crest or motto. Keep in mind your own personality and what is most important to you.
- ✓ View artwork depicting *Buffalo Soldiers* at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/hh/38/hh38toc.htm
- ✓ Write a “Flash News Report” about one of the western frontier events. Use the 5 Ws – Who? What? – When? – Where? – Why?
- ✓ View the Buffalo Soldier postage stamp and design one of your own. <http://www.militaryartshop.com/prints/kunstler/buffalosoldierstampprint.htm>
- ✓ Read excerpts from two documents that led to officially allowing African Americans in the U.S. military: *The Emancipation Proclamation* (1863) and *Act to Increase and Fix Military Peace Establishment of the United States* (1866). Then, complete the activity on [slide 20](#).

MORE Activities and Projects

DIRECTIONS: *5th grade level - Read excerpts below taken from the two documents that led to allowing African Americans in the U.S. Regular Army. Discuss (from the standpoint of 1800s) your reaction to discrimination.*

“... all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.”

Emancipation Proclamation, 1863

An act to increase and fix the peace establishment of the United States shall consist of ten regiments of cavalry and forty-five regiments of infantry of which two cavalry regiments and four infantry regiments “shall be composed of colored men, having the same organization as is now provided by law for cavalry regiments...”

Act to Increase and Fix Military Peace Establishment of the United States, 1866

Further Resources

Museums

Black American West Museum and Heritage Center, Denver, Colorado
 Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, 1834 Southmore, Houston, Texas
 International Museum of the Horse, Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, Kentucky
 Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC

Artwork

Fort Davis National Historic Site Handbook by Robert M. Utey
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/hh/38/hh38toc.htm

Books for Young Students (2nd → 6th) grade level:

Black Cowboy, Wild Horses: A True Story by J. Lester

Black Frontiers: History of African-American Heroes in the Old West
 by L. Schlissel

The Black Regulars 1866-1898 by W.A. Dobak & T.D. Phillips

Buffalo Soldiers: African-American Soldiers by C. Reef

Buffalo Soldiers: The Story of Emanuel Stance by R.H. Miller

Forgotten Heroes: The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers by C. Cox

Voices of the Buffalo Soldier by F.N. Schubert

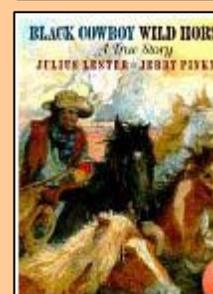
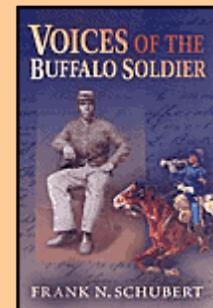
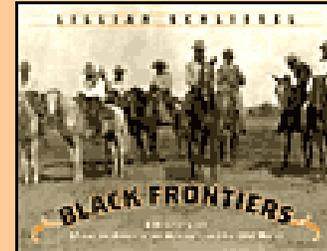
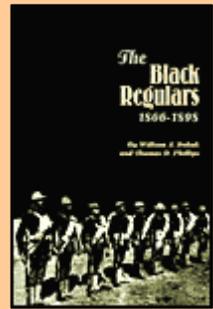
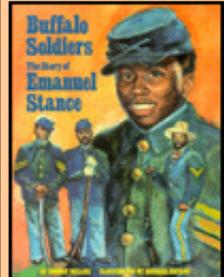
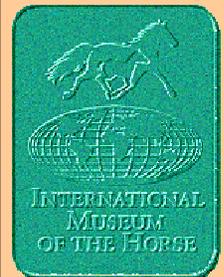
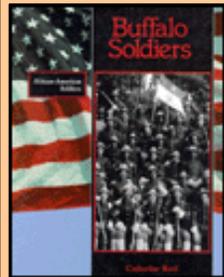
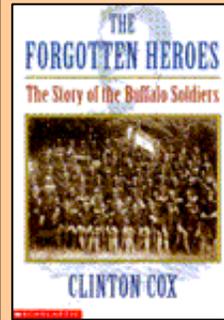
More Websites

<http://smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian/issues98/dec98/buffalo.html>

<http://www.cobblestonepub.com/pages/compquest199502.html>

<http://www.buffalosoldier.net/>

<http://abuffalosoldier.com/>



References

Information Credits

Websites:

Antietam National Battlefield website retrieved June 6, 2005 from

<http://www.nps.gov/ncro/anti/emancipation.html>

Buffalo Soldier.net website retrieved May 29, 2005 from <http://www.buffalosoldier.net/>

Fort Davis National Historic Site retrieved May 20-June 16, 2005 from <http://www.nps.gov/foda/>

History of the Regiment Company H, 10th U.S. Cavalry website retrieved May 30, 2005 from

<http://abuffalosoldier.com/atise3.gif>

Smithsonian National Museum of American History website retrieved May 30, 2005 from

<http://smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian/issues98/dec98/buffalo.html>

The New Buffalo Soldiers website retrieved June 1, 2005 from <http://abuffalosoldier.com/>

Books:

Black Cowboy, Wild Horses: A True Story by J. Lester

Black Frontiers: History of African-American Heroes in the Old West by L. Schlissel

Buffalo Soldiers: African-American Soldiers by C. Reef

Buffalo Soldiers: The Story of Emanuel Stance by R.H. Miller

Forgotten Heroes: The Story of the Buffalo Soldiers by C. Cox

The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Black Cavalry in the West by W.H. Leckie

The Tenth Cavalry by Major E.L.N. Glass

Magazines:

Cobblestone: A History Magazine for Young People, Feb. 1995, "Buffalo Soldiers"

Photo Credits

Slide 1, 2, & 3– **Teacher information pages + HOME**

Scanned document/photograph received from Fort Davis National Historic Site

Slides 4 & 5 - **Why the Term Buffalo Soldiers?**

Buffalo Soldiers website retrieved June 5, 2005 from <http://www.zianet.com/wblase/courier/buffalo.htm>

Slide 6 – **Volunteer Soldiers**

University of Arizona, Special Collections Library, Tucson AR retrieved May 20-July 16, 2005 from

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/branches/spc/homepage/index.html>

Slide 9 - **Soldiers** in the Regular Army

National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior website, Archives/Records Administration retrieved May 26,

2005 from <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

Slides 12 & 14 - **Walking in His Boots**

Fort Davis National Historic Site website retrieved July 16, 2005 from

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

Slides 13 - **Walking in His Boots**

Scanned photograph received from Fort Davis National Historic Site

Slide 15 - **Famous Buffalo Soldiers – Friends and Foes**

Fort Davis National Historic Site retrieved May 23, 2005 from

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

Slide 18 – **Present-day Buffalo Soldiers**

Scanned photograph received from Fort Davis National Historic Site

Slide 21 - **Further Resources**

Barnes and Noble website retrieved May 30, 2005 from <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Amazon website retrieved June 4, 2005 from <http://www.amazon.com>

International Museum of the Horse website retrieved June 4, 2005 from <http://www.imh.org/imh/buf/buftoc.html>

Slide 24 – **End**

Scanned photographs received from Fort Davis National Historic Site

BUFFALO SOLDIERS

at Fort Davis, Texas 1867 - 1885



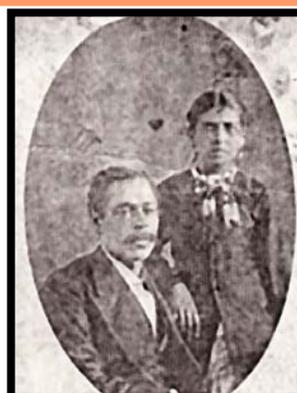
1st Sgt.
Thomas
Allsup,
10th Cavalry



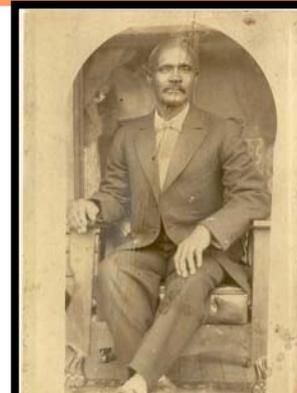
George
Bentley,
9th Cavalry,
Troop K



James
Thompson,
9th Cavalry,
Troop K



Thomas
Stone & wife,
9th Cavalry,
Troop I



Wesley
Brandsford,
10th Cavalry

*A strong tradition
of dedicated service!*

These few photos serve to represent the many Buffalo Soldiers who honorably served at Fort Davis during the mid-1800s.