

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PACIFIC WAR

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

Activity Title: The Role of African-Americans in the Pacific during World War II.

Activity Objectives: The student understands important issues, events and individuals of the 20th Century and can summarize the contributions of African-Americans in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II.

TEKS:

4th Grade:

113.16(b)(5)(A); (13)(B,C,D,E); (22)(C)

U.S. History:

113.41(c)(2)(D);(7)(G);(12)(A);(17)(A);(26)(A,F)

World History:

113.42(c)(1)(F)

- 1. Introduction:** African-Americans have fought for this country since its beginning. During the Revolutionary War 5000 served in the Continental Army, during the War of 1812 many served in the Navy and a battalion of freemen fought in the Battle of New Orleans with General Andrew Jackson. During the Civil War, 186,000 African-Americans served in the Union Army. Following the Civil War the Army formed four regiments of black troops to fight in the West against hostile Indian tribes. These regiments, the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 24th and 25th Infantry, became famously known as the “Buffalo Soldiers.” The Buffalo Soldiers fought in the Spanish-American War along with newly formed African-American volunteer regiments and National Guard regiments. In World War I, 350,000 served and helped form two divisions, the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions. One African-American was awarded the Medal of Honor during that war. During World War II, over 1 million African-Americans served, seven received the Medal of Honor.

2. Lesson: Use the provided PowerPoint presentation.

3. Post lesson:

- a. Divide your class into seven groups. Have each group research and do a presentation about one of the seven African-American Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. The presentation should address who he was, where he was from, his branch of service, what he did to earn the Medal, when the Medal was presented and by whom. Have them also explain the circumstances behind the later issuance of the Medal.

<http://www.history.army.mil/moh/mohb.html>

- b. Have your students research the history of one of the Buffalo Soldier regiments: 9th and 10th Cavalry, or 24th and 25th Infantry. Do any of these regiments still exist in the U.S. Army?
- c. Have the students track the WWII history of the 24th or 25th Infantry Regiments on a map of the Pacific showing where they went and how long they stayed on each island.
- d. Contact the Buffalo Soldier heritage group and have them come to your school for a presentation. <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/programs/buffalo-soldiers/>

Vocabulary:

Segregate discrimination posthumous freeman

Resources: computer, projector, screen

Materials:

Technology Utilization:

Accommodations: