

Lesson 22

Museum Connection: Family and Community

Lesson Title: The United States Colored Troops: Fighting for Freedom

Purpose: In this lesson students will examine the sacrifices and accomplishments of black soldiers during the Civil War. Students will participate in a jigsaw activity in which they will analyze primary and secondary sources in order to create a monument design that commemorates the role of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) in the Civil War.

Time Frame: 3-4 class periods

Grade Level/Content Area: Middle, Social Studies

Correlation to Social Studies Standard:

USH 2.9.8.2 Describe the views and lives of leaders and soldiers on both sides of the war, including black soldiers and regiments.

Social Studies: Maryland College and Career Ready Standards

5.C.7.c (Grade 8) Describe the views and lives of leaders and soldiers on both sides of the Civil War, including black soldiers and regiments.

6.F.1 (Grade 8) Interpret information from primary and secondary sources.

Correlation to State Reading and English Language Arts Maryland College and Career Ready Standards:

2.A.1 (Grade 8) Apply and refine comprehension skills by selecting, reading, and analyzing a variety of print and electronic informational texts.

3.A.1.b (Grade 8) Listen to critically, read, and discuss a variety of literary forms and genres.

Objective:

Students will examine the sacrifices and accomplishments of Blacks who served in the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War.

Vocabulary

Abatis – defensive obstacle formed by stacking felled trees with sharpened branches facing the enemy

Accomplishment – something that has been achieved

Bounty – an extra allowance to induce entry into the armed services

Color guard – Soldiers, usually four, assigned to protect the flag of the nation or military unit.

Colors – Flags representing specific military units and used in battle to identify the unit and to rally the troops.

Commission – appointment to or assignment of a task

Comrade – a fellow soldier

Contraband- a slave who during the Civil War escaped to or was brought within Union lines

Garrison – (n) A military installation such as a fort. (v.) to station troops, to occupy with troops.

Medal of Honor – The highest award for valor in action against an enemy bestowed on an individual in U.S. military service

Manumission- The formal release from slavery by an individual or officially by state law, sale, or purchase.

Muster – The act of assembling, especially a formal military inspection.

Obstacle – something that impedes progress

Palisade – a fence of stakes, used for defense

Prisoner of war – A member of the armed forces who is taken by the enemy during combat

Rebel – A Southerner who supported the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Reconnaissance – An exploratory military survey of enemy territory.

Regiment – a military unit consisting of a number of battalions.

Retaliate – to get revenge.

Segregation – Separation of people based solely on race, gender, or affiliation; the policy or practice of compelling groups of people to live apart from others, go to separate schools, use separate social facilities, etc.

Skirmish – a minor fight in a war

Slavery – The institution of enslaving persons or holding individuals in a condition of servitude

Materials

For the teacher

Teacher Resource Sheet 1 “The Colored Soldiers” a poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar (1895)

For the student:

Student Resource Sheet 1 United States Colored Troops: Sacrifices and Accomplishments

Student Resource Sheet 2 Letter of Sergeant Major Fleetwood

Group 1 Documents:

Student Resource Sheet 3 Lincoln’s Retaliation Letter for the Mistreatment of Black Prisoners of War

Student Resource Sheet 4 Fourth Regiment Infantry, USCT, MD Vol. Comp.

Student Resource Sheet 5 Fleetwood’s Account of the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia

Student Resource Sheet 6 General Benjamin Butler on the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia

Group 2 Documents:

- Student Resource Sheet 7 Reverend J.P. Campbell, AME Church Sermon in Baltimore, Maryland, February 29, 1864
- Student Resource Sheet 8 Regimental History – Fourth Regiment Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops, Maryland Volunteers
- Student Resource Sheet 9 Michael Arnold (4th USCT) Account of marching into Wilmington, NC, after its capture
- Student Resource Sheet 10 Letter to Secretary of War Stanton from unknown member of the 4th USCT (October 1864)

Group 3 Documents:

- Student Resource Sheet 11 USCT Muster Roll
- Student Resource Sheet 12 Sergeant-Major Christian Fleetwood, Wearing Medal of Honor
- Student Resource Sheet 13 Certificate of Award of the Board of Claims
- Student Resource Sheet 14 My Dear Husband

Group 4 Documents:

- Student Resource Sheet 15, Letter to Former Owner
- Student Resource Sheet 16, Robert Cowden Colonel of the 54th USCT
- Student Resource Sheet 17, Corporal Thomas Long, USCT

Resources

Publications

- “Above and Beyond: The Civil War Careers of Alfred B. Hilton and Charles E. Phelps.” *Harford Historical Bulletin*. Harford County, MD: The Historical Society of Harford County, Inc., Fall 2000.
- Berlin, I., Fields, J., Miller, S., Reidy, J., and Rowland, L. *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War*. New York: The New Press, 1992.
- “Blacks and the Military.” *Footsteps* September/October 2003.
- Chapelle, Suzanne E. and Phillips, Glenn. *African American Leaders of Maryland: A Portrait Gallery*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 2004.
- Christian, Charles. *Black Saga: The African American Experience*. Washington D.C.: Civitas/Counterpoint Publishing Company, 1999.
- “54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.” *Footsteps* January/February 1999.
- Glatthaar, Joseph. *Forged in Battle, The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers*. New York: The Free Press, 1990.
- Longacre, Edward. *A Regiment of Slaves: The 4th United States Colored Infantry, 1863-1866*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003.
- McPherson, James. *Battle Cry of Freedom*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1989.
- McPherson, James. *The Negro's Civil War*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.
- Trudeau, Noah. *Like Men of War, Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865*. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1998.

Web sites

http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/civil_war_series/2/sec18.htm

<http://www.africanamericancontributions.com/james-harris-USCT-medal-of-honor.html>

http://www.civil-war-journeys.org/african_american_soldiers.htm

Teacher Background

At the outbreak of the Civil War, there were few African Americans on the military rosters of the Union Army. The United States Navy had continued to enlist black seamen, but there was a quota, and those who became regulars often did menial labor. President Lincoln and his advisors had no reason to enlist African Americans in the Civil War because they believed that the regular Army and volunteers would be sufficient to crush the Confederates within a matter of months. Initially, volunteers enlisted for 90 days or less.

African Americans were eager to enlist in the Union Army because they saw southern Whites as traitors who intended to overthrow the government for the purpose of perpetuating slavery. They saw the war as having more to do with their own lives than did their white counterparts, and they appealed to the federal government to modify military laws barring their enlistment and to allow them to fight as equals with white soldiers. They frequently highlighted their particular skills as “knowing the geography of the South and being acquainted with the character of the enemy.” They wanted to “go as soldiers.”

The move to enlist African American soldiers was slow because Lincoln wanted time to better understand the issue of race in the country. He was concerned about the reactions from the white north and from white soldiers in the Union Army. The government's policy on using Blacks in the Civil War changed as the conflict progressed. Lincoln and his advisors were forced to accept the fact that Confederate forces were more determined than initially believed.

As thousands of runaways made their way into Union encampments, military leaders had no policy that governed how they should be handled. General Benjamin Butler called them "contrabands" and put them on labor details. Without a policy to guide him, Butler refused to return runaway slaves to owners who came to claim them. Butler argued that since slave owners believed they were an independent nation, the fugitive slave laws of the United States—which would have required the return of runaway slaves to their owners--did not apply.

In August 1861, General John C. Fremont, Commander of the Department of the West, issued a proclamation declaring martial law in Missouri and emancipating all enslaved Black people in the territory he governed. Not wanting to upset loyal Border States and southern Unionists, President Lincoln ordered Fremont to rescind his proclamation. Lincoln thought that arming “the Negroes would turn 50,000 bayonets from the loyal

Border States against us.” The President set out his priorities in a letter dated August 22, 1862, to newspaper editor Horace Greeley:

I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be ‘the Union as it was.’ If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and it is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help save the Union....

On July 17, 1862, Lincoln signed the Second Confiscation Act that freed all of the slaves of those who supported or aided the Confederacy. In addition, all enslaved Blacks who made it behind Union lines were considered free. Lincoln had already asked states for gradual emancipation and now, with the Second Confiscation Act, a closer step to the emancipation of all slaves loomed in the near future. Earlier, in May 1862, Major General David Hunter, Commander of the Department of the South (federally controlled regions of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida), issued a proclamation declaring martial law and emancipating slaves in his department. Without seeking authority from the War Department in Washington, Hunter also formed a regiment of former slaves called the 1st South Carolina Volunteers, Colored. Lincoln revoked Hunter's proclamation and refused recognition of the regiment. Without funds to equip and pay the soldiers, the regiment disbanded; but was later reestablished and officially recognized by the U.S. Government. In October 1862, abolitionist James Lane organized a military unit of former slaves in Kansas called the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry. Lane's unit, like that of Hunter, was not recognized officially until later.

In Louisiana, free black men formed the Louisiana Native Guards (called the *Corps d’Afrique*) and initially offered their support to the Confederacy. After the fall of New Orleans, this unit entered federal service and was the first unit of black soldiers to be officially recognized by the United States government on September 27, 1862. The first duty of this unit was to guard bridges, military installations, fortifications, railroads, and strategic bayous.

After January 1, 1863, when the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, new efforts were made to recruit black soldiers. Lincoln stated “such persons [the now liberated blacks] of suitable conditions will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places and to man vessels of all sort in said service.” The War Department established the Bureau of Colored Troops and all-black military units were to be formed under this auspice of the United States Colored Troops (USCT). President Lincoln's statement made it very clear to military

authorities and citizens alike that African Americans were to be accorded the rights and privileges of bearing arms in support of the Union Army. Many northern Whites expressed their disapproval of Lincoln's decision to accept Blacks in the military. It was argued that he had changed the nature of the war from preserving the Union to a war for "nigger freedom." Some white soldiers deserted. Several state legislatures, for example, those in Indiana and Illinois, sent messages to Lincoln demanding that the Emancipation Proclamation be rescinded or their state would cease to provide assistance for the war effort. White soldiers who deserted from a southern Illinois military unit said that "[they would rather] lie in the woods until moss grew on their backs rather than help free the slaves."

Of particular concern to Lincoln and many others was whether black troops had the courage to fight against the Confederates. Would they charge enemy soldiers positioned behind defensive fortifications? By mid-1863, the answer was a resounding "yes" as black troops, the Louisiana Native Guards (Corps d' Afrique), showed their bravery at the assault on Port Hudson in May. The 54th Massachusetts Regiment showed their valor at the assault on Fort Wagner in July 1863. Nevertheless, there were still concerns about segregated fighting units. Historian Joseph Glatthaar documents circumstances that demanded that white officers be in command of black military units. It was thought by Lincoln and the War Department that this was the only way to gain acceptance of black soldiers by the white North. At the time many white soldiers and civilians believed that Blacks were inferior to Whites and unsuited for military duty without the presence of white officers to control them. White officers joined black regiments for a variety of reasons: their support of abolition, religious beliefs, and the opportunity for easy promotion.

Treatment of the members of the USCT varied. Some white officers taught black soldiers how to read and write, while other officers abused them. Black troops received lower pay, inferior equipment, and inadequate medical attention. The Fort Pillow incident of 1864 symbolizes the most infamous example of mistreatment. Author Charles Christian states that black and white soldiers garrisoning at Fort Pillow were attacked by 1,500 Confederate troops under Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest. About 238 black soldiers were slaughtered and 40 percent of the total Union force at Fort Pillow was killed. In this battle, Confederate troops—offended to find themselves fighting against Blacks—followed what was known as the "Black Flag" policy, that is, take no prisoners. As a result of the carnage, Fort Pillow became a rallying cry for black soldiers and the Union Army for the rest of the war.

More than 180,000 Blacks served in the Union military and one-quarter of the Union Navy was black. USCT soldiers were involved in many engagements of the war including the Battle of the Crater. This battle occurred in July 1864 during the siege at Petersburg, Virginia, that began in June 1864. Union troops set off an explosion under Confederate lines that created a huge crater. Although black troops had been trained to lead the assault, General George Meade replaced them due to the fear of social and political charges that he had sacrificed them if the attack failed. Black troops were ordered into the assault later, but the entire affair became a Union disaster. Although

unsuccessful at the Crater, USCT soldiers were successful at other engagements including New Market Heights (Virginia) on September 29, 1864 and at Brice's Cross Roads (Mississippi) on June 10, 1864. The 55th and 59th USCT served as a rear guard to Union forces under General Samuel Sturgis and prevented General Forrest from completely demolishing the routed troops under Sturgis as he withdrew toward Memphis, Tennessee. By the end of the war, 24 Blacks had received the Medal of Honor; 17 of those went to men in the Army.

Lesson Development

1. **Motivation:** Project on the overhead a copy of Teacher Resource Sheet 1, "The Colored Soldiers." Read the poem to or with the class.
Ask: What does the poem say about the role of black soldiers in the Civil War?
2. Based on the Teacher Background, lead students in a discussion of the history of the United States Colored Troops and the participation of Marylanders in the USCT. Explain to them that they will be examining primary and secondary sources in order to describe the experiences of the men who fought in the USCT.
3. Divide students into groups of four. (This group will be the student's "home group.") Distribute copies of Student Resource Sheet 1, United States Colored Troops: Obstacles and Accomplishments and Student Resource Sheet 2, Letter of Sergeant Major Fleetwood. Have each group work together to complete the first section of the graphic organizer. Debrief.
4. Assign a number (1-4) to each member of the home group. That number will correspond with a set of documents. Students will form a group with classmates with the same number. (This group will be the student's "expert group.") In their expert group, students will examine their set of documents and complete the sections of the graphic organizer that correspond to those documents. After all groups have analyzed their documents and completed their sections of the graphic organizer, students will move back into their home groups and share with one another the information they learned. Debrief this activity with the entire class.
5. **Assessment:** The Maryland Committee for the Commemoration of the United States Colored Troops [is this the name of a real committee?] has decided to create a monument honoring the sacrifices and accomplishments of Marylanders who belonged to the USCT during the Civil War. They are sponsoring a design contest. Those who wish to enter a design in the contest must provide the following for the committee.
 - Sketch of design
 - Wording of a plaque for the design
 - Essay explaining the design and how it honors the sacrifices and accomplishments of the Marylanders who fought in the USCT.

Volunteers should share their designs with the class.

6. **Closure:** Look at Teacher Resource Sheet 1 again. Pay particular attention to the following stanza:

And their deeds shall find a record
In the registry of Fame;
For their blood has cleansed completely
Every blot of Slavery's shame.

Ask:

Do you think that Dunbar was accurate? Do you think that the participation of the USCT in the Civil War “cleansed completely every blot of Slavery’s shame”? Explain.

Thoughtful Applications

- Examine how African American soldiers were treated during other wars. Were they treated as “equal” contributors? Explain.
- Investigate ways in which USCT soldiers were honored and remembered. How is that different from the ways soldiers are recognized today?
- Research the role of other minorities (women, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans) in the United States armed forces. Was their treatment similar to that of African Americans?

Lesson Extensions

- Visit the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture.
- View the movie *Glory* (teacher discretion advised).
- Students can create a 3-D version of their monument in art class.

The Colored Soldiers Paul Laurence Dunbar (1895)

If the muse were mine to tempt it
And my feeble voice were strong,
If my tongue were trained to measures,
I would sing a stirring song.
I would sing a song heroic
Of those noble sons of Ham,
Of the gallant colored soldiers
Who fought for Uncle Sam!

In the early days you scorned them,
And with many a flip and flout
Said "These battles are the white man's,
And the whites will fight them out."
Up the hills you fought and faltered,
In the vales you strove and bled,
While your ears still heard the thunder
Of the foes' advancing tread.

Then distress fell on the nation,
And the flag was drooping low;
Should the dust pollute your banner?
No! the nation shouted, No!
So when War, in savage triumph,
Spread abroad his funeral pall –
Then you called the colored soldiers,
And they answered to your call.

And like hounds unleashed and eager
For the life blood of the prey,
Sprung they forth and bore them bravely
In the thickest of the fray.
And where'er the fight was hottest,
Where the bullets fastest fell,
There they pressed unblanched and fearless
At the very mouth of hell.

Ah, they rallied to the standard
To uphold it by their might;
None were stronger in the labors,
None were braver in the fight.

From the blazing breach of Wagner
To the plains of Olustee,
They were foremost in the fight
Of the battles of the free.

Yes, the Blacks enjoy their freedom,
And they won it dearly, too;
For the life blood of their thousands
Did the southern fields bedew.
In the darkness of their bondage,
In the depths of slavery's night,
Their muskets flashed the dawning,
And they fought their way to light.

They were comrades then and brothers,
Are they more or less to-day?
They were good to stop a bullet
And to front the fearful fray.
They were citizens and soldiers,
When rebellion raised its head;
And the traits that made them worthy, –
Ah! those virtues are not dead.

They have shared your nightly vigils,
They have shared your daily toil;
And their blood with yours commingling
Has enriched the Southern soil.
They have met as fierce a foeman,
And have been as brave and true.

And their deeds shall find a record
In the registry of Fame;
For their blood has cleansed completely
Every blot of Slavery's shame.

So all honor and all glory
To those noble sons of Ham –
The gallant colored soldiers
Who fought for Uncle Sam!

<http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/maai2/identity/text3/dunbar.pdf>

<http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/187/lyrics-of-lowly-life/3703/melancholia/>

Student Resource Sheet 1

United States Colored Troops: Sacrifices & Accomplishments

Source	Sacrifices	Accomplishments
Fleetwood Letter (1865)		
Lincoln's Retaliation Letter (1863)		
Fourth Regiment Infantry		
Fleetwood's Account of the Battle of New Market Heights		
Gen. Benjamin Butler on the Battle of New Market Heights		
Rev. J.P. Campbell (1864)		
Regimental History		
Michael Arnold (1865)		

Student Resource Sheet 1 Continued

Letter to Sec. of War Stanton (1864)		
USCT Muster Roll		
Christian Fleetwood Picture		
Certificate of Award of the Board of Claims (1865)		
My Dear Husband Letter (1863)		
Letter to Former Owner		
Robert Cowden		
Corporal Thomas Long		

Student Resource Sheet 2

Letter of Sergeant Major Fleetwood

Baltimore June 8th, 1865

Dr. James Hall

Dear Sir:

I much regret that you disapprove or rather do not approve of my leaving the service at the expiration of my term of enlistment.

Be assured that in this matter I am actuated by the same motives which induced me to leave your office, and light & agreeable employment and take to the arduous and adventurous duties of camp— some personal ambition to be sure but mainly from a desire to benefit my race.

From representations made by Col. [William] Birney and from the position assumed by our friends in Congress, you remember we were induced to believe or hope that on evidence of merit and ability to do our duty we should receive promotion, at least to the rank of company & regimental officers. —That I have well performed the duties of the office which I have held the past two years, it becomes me not to say, although I wear a medal conferred for some special acts as a soldier, yet am bold to say that no regiment has performed more active, arduous & dangerous service than the 4th U.S. Cold. Troops.

Leaving Baltimore in September 1863 we reported to Yorktown Va. and in less than a week were ordered on a raid, making thirty (30) miles per day, with no stragglers. We remained at Yorktown until 1/64 engaging in similar expeditions once or twice in every month.

In April we were ordered to Point Lookout, Md. to guard the prisoners there, and remained until the organization of the first division of colored troops in the U.S service, viz. the 3d Division, 18th Army Corps.

Leaving Fortress Monroe with the “James River Expedition” in May 64 we were the first ashore at City Point, and built works, held them and made reconnaissances from then to June 15th when the first serious demonstration was made upon Petersburg, losing on that day about two hundred and fifty (250) out of less than six hundred men (600). Assisted in the siege of Petersburg until August when we were transferred to Dutch Gap working in the canal under the shelling of the rebel batteries until the latter part of September when we were ordered to Deep Bottom and under Maj. Gen. Birney on the 29th September, at the taking of New Market Heights and Fort Harrison, lost two thirds of our available force. Entrenching on the lines before Richmond, we remained until Gen. Butler’s Expedition to Fort Fisher, returned to our old camp and in a few days again embarked under Gen. [Alfred H.] Terry upon his successful expedition, and have taken part in all of the marches and fighting encountered by “Terry’s Command” until the surrender of [General Joseph E.] Johnston’s Army in April last.

Student Resource Sheet 2 Continued

Upon all our record there is not a single blot, and yet no member of this regiment is considered deserving of a commission or if so cannot receive one. I trust you will understand that I speak not of and for myself individually, or that the lack of the pay or honor of a commission induces me to quit the service. Not so by any means, but I see no good that will result to our people by continuing to serve, on the contrary it seems to me that our continuing to Act in a subordinate capacity, with no hope of advancement or promotion is an absolute injury to our cause. It is a tacit but telling acknowledgement on our part that we are not fit for promotion, & that we are satisfied to remain in a state of marked and acknowledged subserviency.

A double purpose induced me and most others to enlist, to assist in abolishing slavery and to save the country from ruin. Something in furtherance of both objects we have certainly done, and now it strikes me that more could be done for our welfare in the pursuits of civil life. I think that a camp life would be decidedly an injury to our people. No matter how well and faithfully they may perform their duties they will shortly be considered as "lazy nigger sojers"- as drones in the great hive.

I have trespassed upon your time to a much greater extent than I intended but I wished you correctly to appreciate my motives for leaving the service.

Very truly & respectfully Yours

Christian A. Fleetwood
Sergt. Major 4th U.S.Cold. Troops

Original letter is located in the Carter G. Woodson collection at the Manuscript Divison, Library of Congress. James Hall was Fleetwood's former employer.

<http://www.nps.gov/rich/learn/historyculture/writings3.htm>

Student Resource Sheet 3

Lincoln's Retaliation Letter for the Mistreatment of Black Prisoners of War July 30, 1863

It is the duty of every Government to give protection to its citizens, of whatever class, color, or condition, and especially to those who are duly organized as soldiers in the public service. The law of nations, and the usages and customs of war, as carried on by civilized powers, permit not distinction as to color in the treatment of prisoners of war as public enemies. To sell or enslave any captured person on account of his color is a relapse into barbarism, and a crime against the civilization of the age.

The Government of the United States will give the same protection to all its soldiers, and if the enemy shall sell or enslave anyone because of his color, the offence shall be punished by retaliation upon the enemy's prisoners in our possession. It is, therefore ordered, for every soldier of the United States, killed in violation of the laws of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed; and for every one enslaved by the enemy, or sold into slavery, a rebel soldier shall be placed at hard labor on the public works, and continued at such labor until the other shall be released and receive the treatment due to prisoners of war.

Roy P. Basler et al., eds., *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, 9 vols. (New Brunswick, N.J., 1953-55), vol. 6 , p. 357.

<http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/retal.htm>

Student Resource Sheet 4

FOURTH REGIMENT INFANTRY, U. S. C. T., MD. VOL.—COMPANY H.

149

NAME.	RANK.	DATE OF ENLISTMENT OR MUSTER IN.	DATE OF MUSTER OUT OR DISCHARGE.	REMARKS.
Chase, William H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	June 26, 1865	
Cousins, Edmund B.	Private.	Sept. 1, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Cromwell, Abner	Private.	Sept. 3, 1864	May 26, 1865	
Dunson, Benjamin	Sergeant.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Davis, Henry	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Dorsey, William	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Absent sick since August, 1864; supposed to be dead, Co. M. O. rolls.
Demby, Thomas H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Dorsey, Charles W.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died Sept. 5, 1864, of disease.
Dunson, Henry	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Killed in action Sept. 29, 1864.
Douling, Lewis	Private.	Aug. 29, 1864		Died Nov. 21, 1864, of disease.
Davis, John H. J.	Private.	Nov. 17, 1864	Jan. 9, 1866	Also borne on the rolls as Davis, Henry.
Dorsey, George	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Nov. 30, 1863	
Dowden, Thomas	Private.	Sept. 1, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Flamer, Charles	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Feb. 10, 1865	
Garrett, Daniel	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died July 27, 1864, of disease.
Grant, Charles	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died July 30, 1864, of disease.
Griffin, William W.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Deserted Aug. 15, 1864.
Gross, George	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Deserted Dec. 19, 1865.
Hall, Wm. Henry	Sergeant.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Hilton, Aaron	Corporal.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Hill, Augustus	Corporal.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Harris,				
Geo. Washington	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Harden, Cyrus	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Haynes, David E.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Hilton, Alfred B.	Sergeant.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died Oct. 21, 1864, of wounds received in action.
Hart, Robert	Private.	Aug. 26, 1864		Died June 21, 1865, of disease.
Hammond,				
John Francis	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 24, 1865	
Harris, Edward	Private.	Sept. 5, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Haynes, Joseph	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Jan. 20, 1865	
Hazlewood,				
Rudolphus	Private.	Aug. 23, 1864	June 26, 1865	
Henry, Andrew	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Deserted Nov. 28, 1863.
Hilton, Henry S.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	June 26, 1865	
Huckstep, Cornelius	Private.	Aug. 22, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Johns, Robert	Corporal.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Jenkins, Martin H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Johnson, Joshua	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Jones, James	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Jackson, Thomas	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	April 23, 1864	Transferred to Navy.
Johnson, Reuben	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	April 23, 1864	Transferred to Navy.
Jones, Charles	Private.	Aug. 29, 1864		Died May 6, 1865.
Jackson, James	Private.	Sept. 3, 1864		Died Nov. 12, 1864, of disease.
Jackson, Samuel	Private.	Sept. 5, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Jenkins, Wesley	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	June 18, 1865	
Johnson, Thomas E.	Private.	Sept. 3, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Jones, William	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 5, 1865	
Kirby, Perry H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died July 27, 1865, of disease.
Key, Stephen A.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Oct. 17, 1864	
Lewis, George	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Lytte, Jacob	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Lytte, Stephen H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Larkins, Abraham	Private.	Mar. 1, 1865	May 4, 1866	
Lottery, Patrick	Private.	Mar. 1, 1865	May 4, 1866	
Lloyd, Charles	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died Oct. 23, 1864, of disease.
Landsell, William	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	Deserted Aug. 11, 1863.
Logan, James	Private.	Sept. 1, 1864	Sept. 5, 1865	
Luby, James H.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Taken prisoner Aug. 17, 1864; supposed to be dead, records U. S. War Department.
Miner, Lewis	1st Sergeant.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Matthews, Josiah	Sergeant.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Matthews, Wm. H.	Corporal.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Myers, Daniel	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863	May 4, 1866	
Marr, Charles	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Killed in action Sept. 29, 1864.
Matthews, Israel	Corporal.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died Feb. 21, 1865, of disease.
Mercer, Benjamin F.	Private.	Sept. 1, 1864		Died March 8, 1865, of disease.
Matthews, David D.	Private.	Aug. 11, 1863		Died May 21, 1865, of disease.

Maryland Archives

<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000366/html/am366--149.html>

Student Resource Sheet 5

Fleetwood's Account of the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia

My regiment, the 4th U.S.C.T., lined up for the charge upon the rebel works at New Market Heights, Va., on the morning of September 29, 1864, with eleven officers and 305 enlisted men. There was but one field officer with us, Major A. S. Boernstein who was in command. Our adjutant, Geo. Allen supervised the right, and I as Sergeant-Major, the left. When the charge was started, our Color guard was full; two sergeants, (carrying the Colors,) and ten corporals. Only one of the twelve came off that field on his own feet. Most of them are there still. Early in the rush one of the sergeants went down. I regret much not being able to recall his name. A bullet cut his flagstaff in two, and went through his body, The other sergeant, Alfred B, Hilton, Co. H., a magnificent specimen of a man, over six feet tall and splendidly proportioned caught up the other flag and pressed forward with them both. It was a deadly hailstorm of bullets sweeping men down as hail-stones sweep the leaves from trees, and it was not long before he also went down, shot through the leg. As he fell, he held up the flags and shouted, "Boys, save, the Colors." Before they could touch the ground, Corporal Charles Veal, Co. D. had seized the blue flag, and I the American flag, which had been presented to us by our lady friends before leaving Baltimore, Md., our home. It was very evident that there was too much work cut out for our two regiments, (the 4th and 6th U.S.C.T.) to accomplish. Strong earthworks, protected in front by two lines of abatis, and one line of palisades, and in the rear by a lot of men who evidently knew how to shoot, and largely outnumbered us. We struggled through the two lines of abatis, a few got through the palisades, but it was sheer madness, and those of us who were able, had to get out as best we could. Reaching the line of our reserves, and no commissioned officer being in sight, I rallied the survivors around the flag, rounding up at first 85 men and three commissioned officers. Through the day, about thirty more men came along – "All that was left of them."

I have never been able to see how Veal and I lived under such a hail of bullets unless it was because we were both such little fellows. I think I weighed then about 125 pounds, and he about the same. He did not get a scratch. I had a bullet pass between my legs, cutting my boot leg, trousers and even my stocking, without breaking the skin. Hilton, Veal and myself were awarded Medals of Honor....

Original located in the Carter G. Woodson collection at the Manuscript Divison, Library of Congress
<http://www.nps.gov/rich/flee-166.htm>

Student Resource Sheet 6

General Benjamin Butler on the Battle of New Market Heights, Virginia

There, in a space not wider than the clerk's desk, and three hundred yards long, lay the dead bodies of 543 of my colored comrades, slain in the defense of their country, who had laid down their lives to uphold its flag and its honor, as a willing sacrifice. And as I rode along, guiding my horse this way and that, lest he should profane with his hoofs what seemed to me the sacred dead, and as I looked at their bronzed faces upturned in the shining sun, as if in mute appeal against the wrongs of the country for which they had given their lives, and whose flag had been to them a flag of stripes, in which no star of glory had ever shone for them – feeling I had wronged them in the past, and believing what was the future duty of my country to them – I swore to myself a solemn oath: 'May my right hand forget its cunning, and my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if ever I fail to defend the rights of the men who have given their blood for me and my country this day and for their race forever.' And, God helping me, I will keep that oath.

Source:

The Negro as a Soldier by Christian A. Fleetwood, late sergeant-major 4th U. S. colored troops, for the Negro congress, at the Cotton states and international exposition, Atlanta, Ga., November 11 to November 23, 1895. Pub. by Prof. Geo. Wm. Cook. Washington, D.C., Howard university print, 1895. Page 15.

Courtesy Library of Congress E449 .D16 vol. 19, no. 9 Murray Pam

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/murraybib:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(lcrbmrp+t1909\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?ammem/murraybib:@field(NUMBER+@band(lcrbmrp+t1909)))

Student Resource Sheet 7

Reverend J. P. Campbell, AME Church Sermon in Baltimore, Maryland, February 29, 1864

“If we are asked the question, why it is that black men have not more readily enlisted in the volunteer service of the United States Government since the door has been opened to them? We answer, the door has not been fairly and sufficiently widely opened. It has been opened only in part, not the whole of the way. That it is not sufficiently and fairly opened, will appear from the action of the present Congress upon the subject of the pay of colored soldiers. It shows a strong disposition not to equalize the pay of soldiers, without distinction on account of color...

We ask for equal pay and bounty, not because we set a greater value upon money than we do upon human liberty, compared with which, money is mere trash; but we content for equal pay and bounty upon the principle, that if we receive equal pay and bounty when we go to war, we hope to receive equal rights and privileges when we come out of the war.”

Excerpt:

McPherson, James. The Negro's Civil War. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.

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Student Resource Sheet 8

Regimental History FOURTH REGIMENT INFANTRY, U. S. COLORED TROOPS, MARYLAND VOLUNTEERS.

The Fourth Regiment Infantry United States Colored Troops Maryland Volunteers was organized at Baltimore, Maryland, from July 15th, to September 1, 1863, to serve three years.

Upon the completion of the regimental organization, the command was sent by steamer from Baltimore to Yorktown, Virginia, in September 1863, where the command was thoroughly drilled and disciplined, and utilized in building fortifications.

In February 1864, the command made a raid in the direction of Richmond, and the inclement season of the year, and hardships incident to the marches through snow and sleet was a serious experience.

In March 1864, the regiment was assigned to duty at Point Lookout, Md., in guarding Confederate prisoners-of war.

On the 10th day of April 1864, the regiment was transferred to Fortress Monroe, Va.

In May 1864, the regiment was assigned to duty with Gen. Butler's army of the James, and took part in the movement of that army leading up to the capture of City Point, Va., and the demonstration against Petersburg, Va., prior to the arrival of the army of the Potomac.

The regiment was subsequently ordered for duty at Bermuda Hundred, and assigned to the 18th army corps. With the 18th army corps the regiment took an active part in the engagements at Spring Hill and Jordan's Farm in June 1864, and suffered severe losses in killed and wounded. The captures of cannon by the division of Colored troops of the 18th Army corps to which the 4th regiment was assigned, were numerous, including one battery of six guns by the regiment; in the capture of rifle pits and other fortifications during the Petersburg campaign, the 4th regiment was always with the advance lines of battle.

In August 1864, the regiment was a part of the army of the James, engaged in digging what was known as the Dutch Gap Canal, under a constant fire of the enemy's artillery.

L. Allison Wilmer, J. H. Jarrett and Geo. W. F. Vernon, *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5, Volume 2.* (Baltimore: Guggenheimer, Weil, & Co., 1899). L20937-2, page 129-130
<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000366/html/am366--130.html>

Student Resource Sheet 8

In September 1864, the 4th regiment proceeded to Deep Bottom where it formed a part of the army of the James who were directed to operate against Fort Harrison, which it eventually captured by a gallant dash; this movement was regarded by Gen. Grant as of the greatest importance and all of the troops participating in it, received the highest commendation from the General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States.

In December 1864, the 4th regiment was assigned to duty with the army of Gen. B.F. Butler in his ill-fated attack upon Fort Fisher, North Carolina, the rough ocean experience on the U.S. Transport *Montauk* in mid-winter off Cape Fear River, will ever be remembered by the survivors of the 4th regiment.

On the 29th day of December 1864, the 4th regiment reached Bermuda Hundred, en-route to join the expedition gotten up under the immediate direction of Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding the armies of the United States, and under the command of Gen. Alfred Terry with instructions to renew the attack on Fort Fisher without delay. This second or Terry expedition was eminently successful, and Fort Fisher was captured, and with it Wilmington, North Carolina. The 4th regiment continued in active field service during the winter of 1864 and in the following spring campaign that eventuated in the surrender of Gen. Joseph Johnson's Confederate Army at Greensborough, N.C., April 1865.

The 4th regiment performed garrison duty in the Southern States from the close of the war, until May 4, 1866, when they were mustered out of the service of the United States.

The casualties in the 4th regiment were as follows; killed in battle three commissioned officers and 102 enlisted men, total 105; died of wounds, disease, etc., one commissioned officer and 186 enlisted men, or a total of 187, making an aggregate death list of 292.

In addition to the numerous skirmishes in which the regiment was engaged, the Fourth Regiment Infantry U. S. Colored Troops Maryland Volunteers, took a distinguished part in the following battles, viz: Bermuda Hundred, Petersburg, Dutch Gap, Chapin's Farm, Fort Fisher, Sugar Loaf Hill.

L. Allison Wilmer, J. H. Jarrett and Geo. W. F. Vernon, *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5, Volume 2*. (Baltimore: Guggenheimer, Weil, & Co., 1899). L20937-2, page 129-130

<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000366/html/am366--130.html>

Student Resource Sheet 9

Michael Arnold (4th USCT) Account of marching into Wilmington, NC, after its capture

“The 22d [February 1865] came, and a more lovely day I never saw. By half past six, we were on the move...and one hour’s march brought us on the corporation line of Wilimington, when large volumes of smoke were seen rising in the eastern part of the city. For a time, we thought Hoke had set fire to the city as he went through. But not so. It was the burning of cotton and turpentine at and near the Wilimington and Weldon Railroad. The column halted for a few minutes, when the mayor met General Terry, and begged for protection.

We finally moved, and entered the blockaded city of the Confederacy – the place where all the southern and some of the northern men have made their piles of money – the once [rising] city of the Confederacy, the place noted for its slave market. But now, alas! We march through these fine thoroughfares, where once the slave was forbid[den] being out after nine P.M. ... Negro soldiers! With banners floating! With their splendid brass bands and drum corps, discoursing the National airs and marches!”

Excerpt:

Longacre, Edward. A Regiment of Slaves: The 4th United States Colored Infantry, 1863-1866.
Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003.

Student Resource Sheet 10

**Letter to Secretary of War Stanton from unknown member of the 4th USCT
(October 1864)**

Excerpt:

“[The 4th] came out in 1863 as vlent hearted men for the sacke of our surffring courntury & Sibnce that time things has changs a Round...Ever since we have bin a Laying here at this awlfull & deserble & forceaken Place We have bin a surffring in Terrable condision. We hvent a 150 men for Duty & the officers are a Reporting 400 men for duty and they cant rates a relefe of guard. We have men that bin on Duty now fo Near Two months havent bin releve from gurad & when we Put men on guard in Town we hafto Leve them there for a Weeke at a Time & I know that it tis not milertary to Keepe men on guard longer [than] 48 hours at the Longes. & we have bin a careing has high as five & Six men to the Hosopital in a Day...We have come out Like men & we Expected to be Treated as men but we have ben treated more Like Dogs then men.”

Excerpt:

Longacre, Edward. *A Regiment of Slaves: The 4th United States Colored Infantry, 1863-1866*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2003.

http://query.mdarchives.state.md.us/taxis/search/?dropXSL=html&opts=adv&pr=aom_coll&uq=http%3A%2F%2Faomol.msa.maryland.gov%2F000001%2F000366%2F*&query=366&input.x=20&input.y=12

Student Resource Sheet 11

USCT Muster Roll

R | 2 Cav. | **U.S.C.T.**

Sylvester Roy
Privt., Co. B., 2^d Reg't U. S. Col'd Cavalry

Appears on a
Detachment Muster Roll
of the organization named above
for Sept 2 Oct, 1863.
Station: In the field, Va
Present or absent Present

Stoppage, \$ 100 for

Due Gov't, \$ 100 for

Valuation of horse, \$ 100
Valuation of horse equipments, \$ 100

Remarks: Difference be-
tween white and
colored soldiers
pay due from
Dec 22/63 to Feb
29/64

Book mark: *2*

(844) *W. D. Roy* Copyright.

National Archives

Student Resource Sheet 12



Sergeant Major Christian Fleetwood,
Wearing Medal of Honor
Courtesy Library of Congress LC-USZ62-048685

Student Resource Sheet 13

CERTIFICATE OF AWARD OF THE BOARD OF CLAIMS.

639

§ 300

Office of the Board of Claims
For Slaves Enlisted in the Service of the United States,

Baltimore Md.

June 10th, 1865

We hereby certify, that David T. Jones, of Fredrick county, State of Maryland, having proved, under oath, his loyalty to the Constitution and Government of the United States, and established his title as to the ownership of Lewis Dorsey, a slave enlisted at Fredrick Md., on the 23^d day of March, 1864, by Col. S. M. Bowman, in the service of the United States, in the 39th Regiment of Colored Troops, Co. G, and having filed a valid Deed of Manumission and Release of Service of said slave, is entitled to the sum of Three Hundred dollars, which has been awarded to him by this Board as a remuneration for all claim to the future labor or service of said slave, under the provision of General Orders, War Department, No. 329, 1863.

Thos. Immow President of the Board.

L. E. Stroughton Member of the Board.

Wm. Fogel Member of the Board.

To Col. C. W. Foster,

Chief of the Bureau for the
Organization of Colored Troops, Washington, D. C.

National Archives

Student Resource Sheet 14

My Dear Husband

Mexico Mo
December 30th 1863

My Dear Husband

I have received your last kind letter a few days ago and was much pleased to hear from you once more. It seems like a long time since you left me. I have had nothing but trouble since you left. You recollect what I told you how they would do after you was gone. They abuse me because you went & say they will not take care of our children & do nothing but quarrel with me all the time and beat me scandalously the day before yesterday – Oh I never thought you would give me so much trouble as I have got to bear now. You ought not to leave me in the fix I am in & all these little helpless children to take care of. I was invited to a party to night but I could not go. I am in too much trouble to want to go to parties. The children talk about you all the time. I wish you could get a furlough & come to see us once more. We want to see you worse than we ever did before. Remember all I told you about how they would do me after you left – for they do worse than they ever did & I do not know what will become of me & my poor little children. Oh I wish you had stayed with me & not gone till I could go with you for I do nothing but grieve all the time about you. Write & tell me when you are coming.

Tell Isaac that his mother come & got his clothes she was so sorry he went. You need not tell me to beg any more married men to go. I see too much trouble to try to get any more into trouble too – Write to me & do not forget me & my children – farewell my dear husband from your wife.

Martha

Original found in the National Archives

Source:

Berlin, I., Fields, J., Miller, S., Reidy, J., and Rowland, L. *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War*. New York: The New Press, 1992.

Student Resource Sheet 15

Letter to Former Owner

Benton Barracks Hospital, St Louis, MO
September 3, 1864

I received a letter from Cariline telling me that you say I tried to steal to plunder my child away from you now I want you to understand the Mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own and you may hold on to her as long as you can but I want you to remember this one thing that the longer you keep my Child from me the longer you will have to burn in hell and the quicker you'll get there for we are now making up about one thousand black troops to come up through and won't come through Glasgow and when we come we'll be to Copperhead rabels and to the Slaveholding rabels for we don't expect to leave them there root nor branch but we think however that we that have Children in the hands of you devils we will try your virtues the day that we enter Glasgow I want you to understand kittey digs that where ever you and I meet we are enemies to each other I offered once to pay you forty dollars for my own Child but I am glad now that you did not accept it Just hold on now as long as you can and the worse it will be for you you never in your life before I came down heard you give Children any thing not any thing whatever not even a dollars work of expences now you call my children your property not so with me my Children is my own and I expect to get them and when I get ready to come after Mary I will have about a power and authority to bring her away and to execute vengeance on them that hold my Child you will then know how to talk right too I want you now to just hold to her if you want to if your conscience tells that the road go that road and what it will bring you to kittey digs I have no fears about getting Mary out of our hands this whole Government gives cheer to me and you cannot help your self

Spotswood Rice

Original found in the National Archives

Source:

Berlin, I., Fields, J., Miller, S., Reidy, J., and Rowland, L. *Free At Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War*. New York: The New Press, 1992.

**Robert Cowden
Colonel of the 54th USCT**

...a commodious schoolhouse was built where the men, when off duty, were taught by the faithful chaplain and his no less devoted wife, to read, spell, and write...

In the schoolhouse, not only the enlisted men, but the colored women and children of the neighborhood were gathered for instruction every day. It also served the purpose of a chapel where on Sabbaths especially during inclement weather, they were gathered for Bible instruction or Sabbath-school in the morning and preaching-service in the afternoon. It was astonishing to note the eagerness with which these poor, ignorant creatures entered into the work of study, and also the rapid progress they made in learning. Their enthusiasm knew no bounds as one or another came out first or second best in the contest that secured prizes for best spelling, etc. Such intense interest was created that men going on duty were generally seen carrying their spelling books or testaments under their belts to their posts of duty and spending their time when off post in learning their lesson...

Source:

McPherson, James. *The Negro's Civil War*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.

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Corporal Thomas Long, USCT

If we hadn't become sojers, all might have gone back as it was before: our freedom might have slipped through de two houses of Congress & President Linkum's four years might have passed by & noting been done for we. But now tings can never go back, because we have showed our energy & our courage & our naturally manhood...

Anoder ting is, suppose you had kept your freedom widout enlisting in dis army; your chillen might have grown up free, & would have been always flung in dere faces – “Your fader never fought for he own freedom” – and what could dey answer? Nebber can say that to dis African race any more. Tanks to dis regiment, never can say dat any more, because we first showed them we could fight by dere side...

Source:

McPherson, James. *The Negro's Civil War*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1965.

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