
Fighting for Freedom: African Americans in the Civil War

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Article 1: Spying for the Union in the South

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Robert Smalls help the Union?
 - a. He helped slaves escape to work for the Union army.
 - b. He pretended to be a cook to get information for the Union army.
 - c. *He stole a Confederate ship and handed it over to the Union navy.*
 - d. He built forts for the Union army.
2. How did Mary Elizabeth Bowser learn the secrets that she passed along to the Union army?
 - a. *By working as a servant for Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederate States.*
 - b. By working on a Confederate ship called the Planter.
 - c. By pretending to be an actor in Charleston.
 - d. By leading an army raid in South Carolina for Abraham Lincoln.

Vocabulary Questions

1. An engineer is _____.
 - a. a spy
 - b. *someone who builds things*
 - c. someone who moves guns
 - d. a rebel
2. Some southern states tried to leave the United States and become a new country. These states were called the _____ states.
 - a. *Confederate*
 - b. Union
 - c. Charleston
 - d. Carolina

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Article 2: Taking Chances for Freedom

Comprehension Questions

1. Benjamin F. Butler was a general in the Union army. What did he do with slaves who ran away from their owners in the South?
 - a. He gave the slaves food and shelter and jobs in the Union army.
 - b. He sent the slaves back to their owners in the South.
 - c. He sold the slaves to people in the North who wanted servants.
 - d. He put them on ships and sent them back to Africa.
2. How did some slaves help Union soldiers who escaped from prison camps in the South?
 - a. By giving the Union soldiers guns.
 - b. By getting boats for the Union soldiers.
 - c. By hiding the Union soldiers and leading them to safety.
 - d. By taking the Union soldiers to President Lincoln.

Vocabulary Questions

1. States that allowed slavery were called _____ states.
 - a. freedom
 - b. master
 - c. slave
 - d. shelter
2. Slaves in the South hoped that the Union would bring them _____.
 - a. freedom
 - b. ships
 - c. rebels
 - d. masters

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Article 3: Working for the Union in the North

Comprehension Questions

1. How did African-Americans in the North help the Union army? Three of the answers below are true. Which answer is **not** true?
 - a. African-American men worked as cooks in army camps.
 - b. African-American men worked on railroads and in seaports.
 - c. African-American women helped take care of wounded men.
 - d. *African-American women joined the Confederate army as spies.*

2. What did Frederick Douglass want President Lincoln to do?
 - a. He wanted Lincoln to give African-Americans their own state.
 - b. *He wanted Lincoln to end slavery and let black men join the Union army.*
 - c. He wanted Lincoln to give up fighting the war.
 - d. He wanted Lincoln to make Harriet Tubman a leader in Congress.

Vocabulary Questions

1. The people who work on a ship are called the _____.
 - a. troops
 - b. servants
 - c. *crew*
 - d. generals

2. Someone who wanted slavery to be abolished was called _____.
 - a. *an abolitionist*
 - b. a Confederate
 - c. a Southerner
 - d. a rebel

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Article 4: Fighting for the Union Army

Comprehension Questions

1. What did President Lincoln say in the Emancipation Proclamation?
 - a. He said that all the Southern states could keep slaves as long as they wanted.
 - b. He said that women could join the Confederate army as soldiers.
 - c. *He freed all the slaves in the rebel states and he said that freed slaves could fight for the Union army.*
 - d. He said that freed slaves could join the Confederate army, but not the Union army.

2. What happened to many black soldiers who were taken as prisoners at Fort Pillow?
 - a. They were treated well.
 - b. They were sent to President Lincoln.
 - c. They were sent back to the Union army.
 - d. *They were murdered by the Confederate soldiers.*

Vocabulary Questions

1. When people say, "To arms," they are asking others to join a _____.
 - a. spy ring
 - b. *battle or war*
 - c. prison camp
 - d. newspaper

2. _____ means setting people free.
 - a. *Emancipation*
 - b. Equal pay
 - c. Surrender
 - d. Rebel rights