

African -American Civil War Medal of Honor Winners

By Keith Olmsted

Grade/Subject

11th United States History

Objectives:

The student will investigate the role played by African-American soldiers in the North winning the Civil War. The students will research for at least two Medal of Honor winners from this period of United States History.

TEKS:

US 21A, 21C, 24A, 24B

Context:

Many Americans have no or at best little knowledge of the military roles African-Americans played in the Civil War 1861-1865. Most do not know there were a number of Medal of Honor winners from this historic war.

Time and Materials:

1 to 2 days

Colored pencils or crayons

Computer

Poster board

Glue stick

The One Day Lesson: Use the following web sites to begin this research project, to identify the African-American Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War:

<http://www.cmohs.org/medal.htm>

<http://www.buffalosoldier.net/CIVIL%20WAR%20AFRO-AMERICAN%20MEDAL%20OF%20HONOR%20RECIPIENTS.htm>

http://www.cmohs.org/recipients/carney_history.htm

http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/history/aa_medals.htm

<http://www.infoplease.com/askeds/first-african-american-win-medal-honor.html>

- Write a brief history of why the Medal of Honor started in America.
- Cut a standard white poster board into four equal pieces. On one piece of the poster board attach a copy of 5-6 pictures of the Civil War Medal of Honor Winners with your glue stick.
- Write a brief written or typed description about who they were and where and why they were awarded the Medal of Honor. This can be either written on the poster board next to the picture or typed and glued next to the picture.
- Try and be creative with flags, names, colors and maps.
- Students will present their findings to the class.

Extended lesson:

Have students speculate why there is virtually no account of African-American Medal of Honor recipients acknowledged in American history books. As time allows, let students research and present information on the African-American Medal of Honor recipients in future wars: Spanish-American, World War I, II, Korea and Vietnam.

Special Needs/ESL:

The teacher can create a bulletin board display of vocabulary words specific to the Civil War and the Medal of Honor.

Assessment:

Informal. Have the students orally give the history of the Medal of Honor soldiers and talk about some of the winners.

Multiple Choice:

Which one of the following wars did the U.S. Government start the Medal of Honor program.

- A. Spanish American War
- B. American Revolution
- C. Civil War
- D. War of 1812