

Preliminary Outline

1. Title – The African American Soldier: The Fight for Respect
2. The Right to Citizenship – Frederick Douglas
 - a. Biographical Overview of Frederick Douglas
 - b. Class Exercise: John Brown and Harper’s Ferry
 - c. [Ft. Sumter, SC](#) – Teacher exercise from the NPS
3. Why Did African Americans Want to Serve?
 - a. Class Exercise: [Analyzing Recruitment Poster](#) Read [Recruiting Poster](#)
 - b. Class Exercise: [Creative Writing Activities](#)
4. Forever Free – Emancipation Proclamation
 - a. Provisions of the Emancipation Proclamation that provided for African Americans to Serve
 - b. Recruiting Poster for African Americans
 - c. Class Discussion: Why Did They Want to Serve?
 - d. Class Exercise: Write a letter to another African American telling him why you joined the Union army and giving reasons why he should join.
5. “A Soldier in de Colored Brigade”
 - a. Class Discussion: What does this song tells about the reasons African Americans fought?
 - b. Class Exercise: Listen to the music of [Kingdom Comin'](#) and sing along!
6. The First Units
7. A Complete and Marvelous Success – David Hunter
 - a. [Ft. Pulaski, GA](#) – Teacher exercise from the NPS
8. The Black Flag – Island Mound and Jefferson Davis
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Island Mound, MO](#)
 - b. Class Discussion: The Use of African American Troops in the Confederacy
9. Separate and Unequal – Contrast between White and African American soldiers
 - a. Class Discussion: Review the provisions of the Militia Act of 1862
 - b. Class Exercise: Lesson plan developed by PBS on [Civil War Letters](#)
 - c. Class Exercise: [Information about Black Troops](#)
 - d. Class Exercise: Read Letters from [Private Wilson Wood of the 6th U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery](#), [Private Sylvester Ray of the 2d U.S. Colored Cavalry](#) and [Christian A. Fleetwood](#)
10. Honey Springs, OK – The First Rainbow Coalition
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Honey Hill, SC](#)
 - b. Class Discussion: Why Did American Indians Fight in the Civil War?
11. Battery Wagner, SC – The 54th Massachusetts
 - a. History of the 54th Massachusetts
 - b. Description of the Battle - [Fort Wagner, Morris Is, SC](#)
 - c. Class Exercise: [Read a copy of Robert Lowell's poem "Colonel Shaw and the Massachusetts' 54th," alternately titled, "For the Union Dead."](#)
12. Fort Pillow, TN – Forrest’s Massacre
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Fort Pillow, TN](#)
 - b. Class Exercise: Role of the Media in the Civil War
13. Poison Spring, AR – 1st Kansas
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Poison Spring, AR](#)
14. The Crater, VA – Disaster
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Crater, VA](#)
 - b. Class Discussion: The Politics of the African American Soldier

15. Chaffin's Farm/New Market Heights, VA
 - a. Description of the Battle - [Chaffin's Farm, VA](#)
16. New York City Race Riots – African Americans Suffer
17. POWs - Prisoners of War
 - a. Class Discussion: The Impact of Ending Parole on the Civil War
 - b. See [Andersonville National Historic Site Video](#) - Microsoft Photo Story with music
18. Medal of Honor Winners
 - a. See website for information on [Medal of Honor Winners](#)
 - b. Class Exercise: Select a Civil War Medal of Honor winner and find out what they did to earn the award.
 - c. Class Exercise: What was the Butler Medal?
19. A High Price to Pay
20. African American Women in the Military
 - a. Harriet Tubman – The Conductor Becomes a Spy
21. Constitutional Amendments
 - a. Class Exercise: Review the 13th, 14th and 15th [Amendments to the Constitution](#)
22. Reconstruction and Jim Crow
 - a. Class Discussion: [Jim Crow Laws](#)
23. Buffalo Soldiers
 - a. Class Discussion: The Case of [Henry Flipper](#)
24. Remember the Maine
 - a. Read about the [USS Maine](#)
25. World War I and the "Harlem Hellfighters"
26. World War II and the Tuskegee Airmen
 - a. Class Discussion: Who were the [Tuskegee Airmen](#)?
 - b. Class Discussion: Who was [Doris Miller](#)?
27. Executive Order 9981 and the Korean War
 - a. Importance of Executive Order 9981
 - b. Class Exercise: Read and discuss [Executive Order 9981](#)
28. Korea and Vietnam
29. The Post Vietnam Era
 - a. Class Exercise: Invite an African American veteran to share his experiences with the class.

Resources: [Teaching With Documents: Black Soldiers in the Civil War](#)