



Contributor: Margaret Burkholder **Grade Level:** 7-12

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will be able to explain the role and significance of the Buffalo Soldiers in American history.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

- Pictures of Buffalo Soldiers
- Primary sources related to the Buffalo Soldiers
- Writing materials
- Online Resources

Buffalo Soldiers | National Museum of African American History and Culture

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/buffalo-soldiers>

Buffalo Soldiers - Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)

<https://www.nps.gov/chyo/learn/historyculture/buffalo-soldiers.htm#:~:text=American%20Plains%20Indians%20who%20fought,American%20regiments%20formed%20in%201866>

Smithsonian: Proud Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/proud-legacy-buffalo-soldiers>

Buffalo Soldiers

<https://www.thenmusa.org/articles/buffalo-soldiers/>

The Buffalo Soldier Story | Texas State History Museum

<https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/campfire-stories/buffalo-soldier>

Fort Huachuca History, 1877 to 1945

<https://swabuffalosoldiers.org/history/fort-huachuca-history-1877-to-1945/>

Movies/Videos

America's First All-Black Military Unit | Black American Heroes

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOXCd7Lt0IY&ab_channel=HISTORY

Buffalo Soldiers - Service on the Frontier

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y13RwS95PIM&ab_channel=NationalParkService

Buffalo Soldiers: Fighting on Two Fronts | Trailer | A Local, USA Special

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rrm59DYIVk&ab_channel=WORLD

4. Introduction of the topic:

****Warm-Up (15 minutes):****

- Show pictures of Buffalo Soldiers and ask students what they notice and what questions they have about the images.
- Discuss the background of the Buffalo Soldiers and their role in American history.

****Introduction (15 minutes):****

- Introduce the Buffalo Soldiers and their contributions to the US Army and western expansion

5. Procedure for instruction:

****Main Activity (40 minutes):****

- Divide students into small groups and provide each group with primary sources related to the Buffalo Soldiers. Have students analyze the sources and discuss the significance of the Buffalo Soldiers' presence in the American West.
- Each group presents their findings to the class.

****Wrap-Up (15 minutes):****

- Discuss the impact of the Buffalo Soldiers on American history.
- Have students write a short reflection on what they have learned about the Buffalo Soldiers and their contributions.

6. Assessment of Understanding:

****Assessment:****

- Students' participation in discussions and group work.
- Write a letter home from the perspective of a Buffalo Soldier. (See rubric below)
- Quality of reflections on the Buffalo Soldiers' significance.

This lesson plan is designed to engage students in learning about the Buffalo Soldiers through primary source analysis and discussions.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Historical Accuracy	Demonstrates a deep understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by Buffalo Soldiers, and accurately reflects the historical context.	Shows a good understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by Buffalo Soldiers, and mostly reflects the historical context.	Shows some understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by Buffalo Soldiers, but lacks historical context.	Shows little understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by Buffalo Soldiers, and lacks historical context.
Perspective and Voice	Maintains a consistent and authentic voice of a Buffalo Soldier throughout the letter, effectively conveying emotions, thoughts, and experiences.	Mostly maintains a consistent and authentic voice of a Buffalo Soldier throughout the letter, and effectively conveys emotions, thoughts, and experiences.	Attempts to maintain a consistent and authentic voice of a Buffalo Soldier, but may be inconsistent at times in conveying emotions, thoughts, and experiences.	Does not maintain a consistent and authentic voice of a Buffalo Soldier, and struggles to convey emotions, thoughts, and experiences.
Organization and Clarity	The letter is well-organized, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Ideas are logically presented and effectively connected.	The letter is mostly well-organized, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Ideas are mostly logically presented and connected.	The letter is somewhat organized, but may lack a clear introduction, body, or conclusion. Ideas may be somewhat disjointed.	The letter lacks organization and clarity, with unclear introduction, body, and conclusion. Ideas are presented in a confusing manner.
Language and Mechanics	Demonstrates a sophisticated and varied use of language, with precise word choice, vivid descriptions, and minimal errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	Shows a good use of language, with varied vocabulary and descriptions, and few errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	Shows some use of language, but may lack variety and precision. Contains several errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.	Language use is limited and lacks variety and precision. Contains numerous errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.