

# Title: Buffalo Soldiers

Grade Level: 6-8

Subject: Social Studies

Keywords: Westward Expansion, Buffalo Soldiers

<b>Lesson Plan:</b>	Buffalo Soldiers
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Studies
<b>Grade:</b>	6-8
<b>Description/ Abstract of Lesson</b>	Discuss the impact of westward expansion on cultural practices and migration patterns of Native American and African slave populations.
<b>LAFS.7.RI.1.3</b>	Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).
<b>LAFS.7.RI.1</b>	Key Ideas and Details
<b>SS.8.A.4.4</b>	Demonstrate an understanding of the domestic and international causes, course, and consequences of westward expansion.
<b>LAFS.7.W.1.2</b>	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
<b>Objective(s):</b>	Students will: Understand the contribution and sacrifices of black soldiers during the Westward expansion
<b>Materials:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Notebook paper</li><li>● Pen</li><li>● Written document analyzes sheet</li><li>● Poster advertisement</li><li>● Buffalo Soldiers song lyrics by Bob Marley</li><li>● projector</li></ul>
<b>Duration:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1-2 class periods</li><li>● Block Scheduling (90 min.) 1 class period</li></ul>
<b>Lesson Lead In/ Opening:</b>	1. Before Class: Have the song Buffalo Soldier, by Bob Marley ready to play as students enter the class. Display the lyrics.
<b>Activity 1:</b>	Warm up or Do Now: Listen to the song "Buffalo Soldiers" by Bob Marley and follow along with the Lyrics, then respond to the following questions in your notebook  What is the Author's point of View about Buffalo Soldiers? List the characteristics of the Buffalo Soldier described in the song
<b>Activity 2:</b>	Write on the board: The Oppress Becomes the Oppressor ask students to analyze the quote. How is this quote related to Bob Marley's song
<b>Activity 3:</b>	Read the History of Buffalo Soldiers to give students back ground information
<b>Activity 4:</b>	Using the poster and written document sheet; have students analyze the poster. Review their answer. You may find these resources in the Web Resources row.
<b>Higher Order</b>	How did some African Americans show their support to the US?

<b>Thinking Questions:</b>	Why would African Americans sign up as buffalo soldiers to help white settlers expand west ward?
<b>Suggested Books:</b>	<i>Hidden Heroism: Black Soldiers in America's Wars</i> By Robert B. Edgerton
<b>Web Resources</b>	<p><a href="https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/buffalo-soldiers">https://www.history.com/topics/westward-expansion/buffalo-soldiers</a></p> <p>Buffalo Soldier poster <a href="https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/recruitment-broadside.gif">https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/images/recruitment-broadside.gif</a></p> <p>Analyze written documents: <a href="https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/written_document_analysis_worksheet.pdf">https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/written_document_analysis_worksheet.pdf</a></p>

# Buffalo Soldier

[Bob Marley](#)

Buffalo Soldier, dreadlock Rasta  
There was a Buffalo Soldier  
In the heart of America  
Stolen from Africa, brought to  
America  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for  
survival  
I mean it, when I analyze these  
things  
To me, it makes a lot of sense  
How the dreadlock Rasta was the  
Buffalo Soldier  
And he was taken from Africa,  
brought to America  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for  
survival  
Said he was a Buffalo Soldier,  
dreadlock Rasta  
Buffalo Soldier, in the heart of  
America  
If you know your history  
Then you would know where you  
coming from  
Then you wouldn't have to ask me  
Who the heck do I think I am  
I'm just a Buffalo Soldier  
In the heart of America  
Stolen from Africa, brought to  
America

Said he was fighting on arrival  
Fighting for survival  
Said he was a Buffalo Soldier  
Win the war for America  
Said he was a, woe yoy yoy, woe  
woe yoy yoy  
Woe yoy yoy yo, yo yo woy yo,  
woe yoy yoy  
Woe yoe yoe, woe woe yoe yoe  
Woe yoe yoe yo, yo yo woe yo woe  
yo yoe  
Buffalo Soldier, troddin' through  
the land woo ooh  
Said he wanna ran, then you  
wanna hand  
Troddin' through the land, yea, yea  
Said he was a Buffalo Soldier  
Win the war for America  
Buffalo Soldier, dreadlock Rasta  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for  
survival  
Driven from the mainland  
To the heart of the Caribbean  
Singing, woe yoy yoy, woe woe  
yoy yoy  
Woe yoy yoy yo, yo yo woy yo woy  
yo yoy Woy yoy yoy, woy woy yoy  
yoy  
Woy yoy yoy yo, yo yo woe yo woe  
yo yoy  
Troddin' through San Juan  
In the arms of America  
Troddin' through Jamaica, a Buffalo  
Soldier  
Fighting on arrival, fighting for  
survival  
Buffalo Soldier, dreadlock Rasta  
Woe yoe yoe, woe woe yoe yoe  
Woe yoe yeo yo, yo yo woe yo woe  
yo yoe

Buffalo soldiers were African American soldiers who mainly served on the Western frontier following the American Civil War. In 1866, six all-black cavalry and infantry regiments were created after Congress passed the Army Organization Act. Their main tasks were to help control the Native Americans of the Plains, capture cattle rustlers and thieves and protect settlers, stagecoaches, wagon trains and railroad crews along the Western front.

The soldiers' main mission was to secure the road from San Antonio to El Paso and restore and maintain order in areas disrupted by Native Americans, many of whom were frustrated with life on Indian reservations and broken promises by the federal government. The black soldiers, facing their own forms of discrimination from the U.S. government, were tasked with removing another minority group in that government's name.

The 10th Cavalry was based in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and commanded by Colonel Benjamin Grierson. In August 1867, the regiment was ordered to Fort Riley, Kansas, with the task of protecting the Pacific Railroad, which was under construction at the time.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers lost two-thirds of their officers and half of their troops, was memorably dramatized in the film *Glory*. By war's end, 16 black soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor.

soldiers of the all-black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments were dubbed "buffalo soldiers" by the Native Americans they encountered. One theory claims the nickname arose because the soldiers' dark, curly hair resembled the fur of a buffalo. Another assumption is the soldiers fought so valiantly and fiercely that the Indians revered them as they did the mighty buffalo. Whatever the reason, the name stuck, and African American regiments formed in 1866, including the 24th and 25th Infantry (which were consolidated from four regiments) became known as buffalo soldiers.

### **History of Buffalo Soldiers**