



History at Home

AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



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Education Resource Guide

The materials included in this resource guide will help supplement the digital content the Education Department has created on the National Museum of the Marine Corps website about African Americans in the United States Marine Corps.

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Education Resource Guide

Age Range:

Our African Americans in the Marine Corps activities are ideally suited for grades 4-8. We have provided topic worksheets at the end of this document for our younger learners.

Student Objectives:

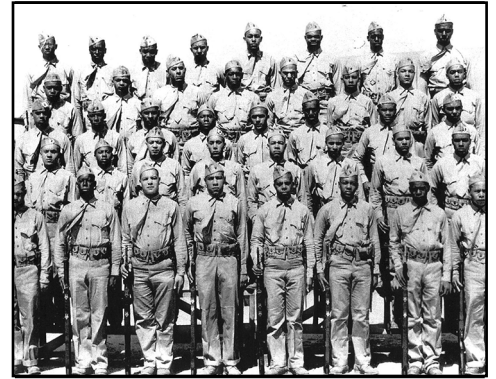
- I can explore the ways in which African Americans have contributed to the storied history of the United States Marine Corps.
- I can analyze how the events in African American history run with and against the common Marine Corps timeline.
- I can summarize the role of African Americans in the Marine Corps in writing.

Procedure:

1. Fill in the first two columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet.
2. While watching the video series, **African Americans in the United States Marine Corps**, fill in the blank timeline on page 5.
3. After you have finished watching the videos, fill in the last remaining columns of the KWLW Comprehension Sheet. Think about how their timeline varies or is similar to other events in Marine Corps history. Talk about it with your friends, family, or classmates.
4. For our younger viewers, our topic worksheet on the final two pages will provide a general understanding of the African Americans experience in the Marine Corps. Read the profiles of prominent African Americans and reflect on their service and sacrifice.

Materials:

- *African Americans in the Marine Corps Video Series* [\[LINK\]](#)
- *KWLW Comprehension Sheet and Timeline*
- *African Americans in the Marine Corps Topic Sheet and Profiles*



KWLW Comprehension Chart

Topic: African Americans in the Marine Corps

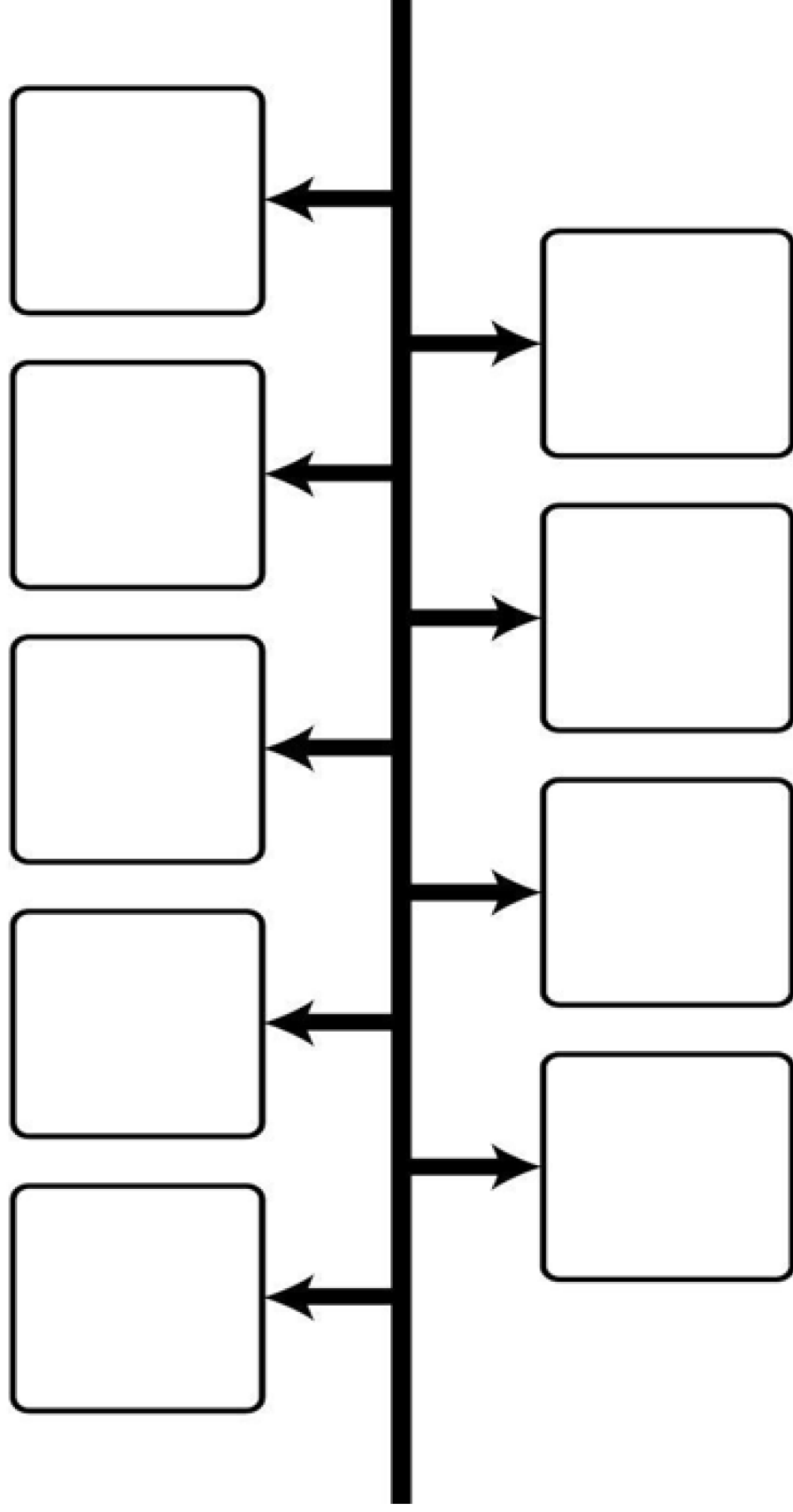
Directions: Fill out the first two columns (K and W) below before watching the African Americans in the Marine Corps video series. Once you have finished watching the video, fill out the last two columns (L and W) with the new information you learned and any questions you still have.

K What I Know	W What I Want to Know/Learn	L What I Learned	W What Questions Do I Still Have

African Americans in the Marine Corps Timeline

Topic: African Americans in the Marine Corps

Directions: While watching the **video series** on African Americans in the Marine Corps, fill in the timeline below with events that you believe changed the way they were able to participate in the Marine Corps.



African Americans in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

On 25 May 1942, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued instructions to recruit the first African American citizens for service in the U.S. Marine Corps. The first African American Marines were sent to a segregated (separated) training camp named Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Prior to the full integration of the Marine Corps in 1949, approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point. African Americans continue to offer their selfless service to the U.S. Marine Corps and beyond in a variety of positions of leadership.

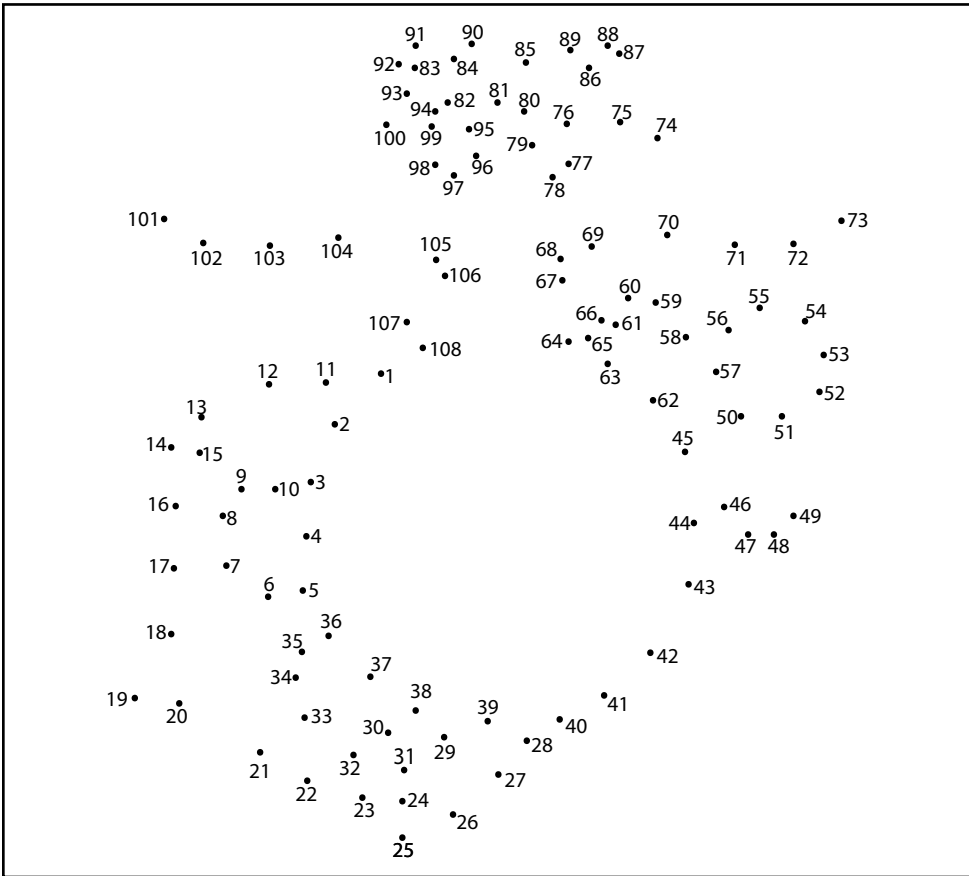


Montford Point Marines

African Americans in the Marine Corps

EGA Connect the Dots

Throughout the history of the Marine Corps, African Americans serving within the organization have always stuck to its motto, Semper Fedelis, or Always Faithful. Connect the dots to make the symbol of the Marine Corps, the Eagle Globe, and Anchor (EGA).



What words can you write down to describe the service of African Americans in the Marine Corps?

TIMELINE

1776

The first African American to fight in a Marine role was John Martin, also known as Keto

1941

President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, reaffirming that “there shall be no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race...”

1942

The first African American recruits arrived at Montford Point



1948

President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 establishing equality of treatment and opportunity in the U.S. military regardless of race

1949

The first African American female Marine was Annie E. Graham



1968

James Anderson, Jr., became the first African American Marine Medal of Honor recipient when he sacrificed his life by smothering a grenade with his body in Cam Lo, Vietnam



2016

According to a 2016 study, African Americans comprise 10% of the Marine Corps’ total force



PROFILES

African Americans in the United States Marine Corps



Gilbert Johnson

- Gilbert Johnson earned the nickname “Hashmark” because he wore three diagonal service stripes on one sleeve of his uniform. The stripes represented his service prior to WWII in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy.
- Johnson joined the U.S. Marines when he heard that they were recruiting African Americans.
- He reported to Montford Point on 14 November 1942. He became one of the first drill instructors at Montford Point.
- In 1974, the Marine Corps renamed Montford Point to Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in honor of “Hashmark.”



Frank E. Petersen, Jr.

- Frank Petersen was the first African American Marine aviator.
- He flew more than 300 combat missions over Korea and Vietnam.
- He was the first African American fighter squadron commander.
- He was the first African American Marine Corps general.
- Frank Petersen retired in 1988 as a lieutenant general.



Vernice Armour

- Vernice Armour was the first African American female Marine aviator and the first African American female combat pilot in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- She flew with HMLA- 169 during the invasion of Iraq and completed two combat tours in the Gulf.
- Armour obtained the rank of captain.