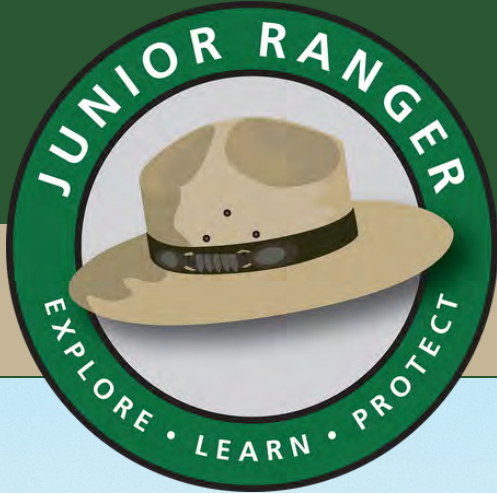


USCT

United States Colored Troops

Theodore Roosevelt Island
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



JUNIOR RANGER

ACTIVITY BOOK



Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt Island

Home to the first regiment
of the **United States
Colored Troops**, the first
African American regiment
formally mustered into
federal service.



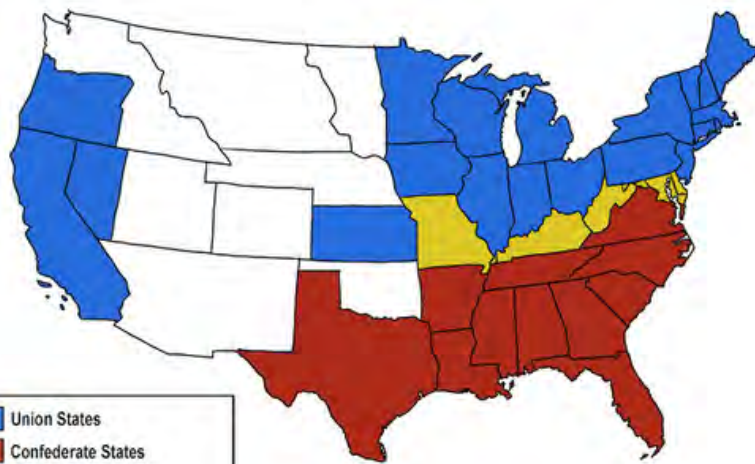
THIS BOOKLET BELONGS TO



Before becoming the memorial site for 26th President Theodore Roosevelt, this Island served as the training grounds and residence for the Union Army's first United States Colored Troops regiment. *Learn about their story and become a National Park Service Junior Ranger today!*

OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The Civil War was a conflict that was fought in America between 1861 to 1865. The war was fought between the Confederate South and the Union North. The conflict began over a long-standing disagreement over the institution of slavery, whereas the Confederates wanted to preserve it, and the Union wanted to end it.



U.S. Map 1861-1865

Most of the North's army fought not to end slavery, but to preserve the Union. However, for African Americans, the war meant emancipation (freedom).

Prior to the Civil War, African Americans were not allowed to become soldiers. Almost two years after the war began, white volunteers for the Union were dwindling, but African Americans were eager to join the fight for their freedom. In 1862 President Lincoln passed **The Second Confiscation and Milita Act** which allowed black soldiers to fight in the army.

THE FIRST REGIMENT OF THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS



CHRISTIAN FLEETWOOD

Many enslaved people sought freedom in Washington, D.C., the capital of the Union, during the Civil War. Following the D.C. Emancipation Act of 1862 and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, the African American population swelled in the District.

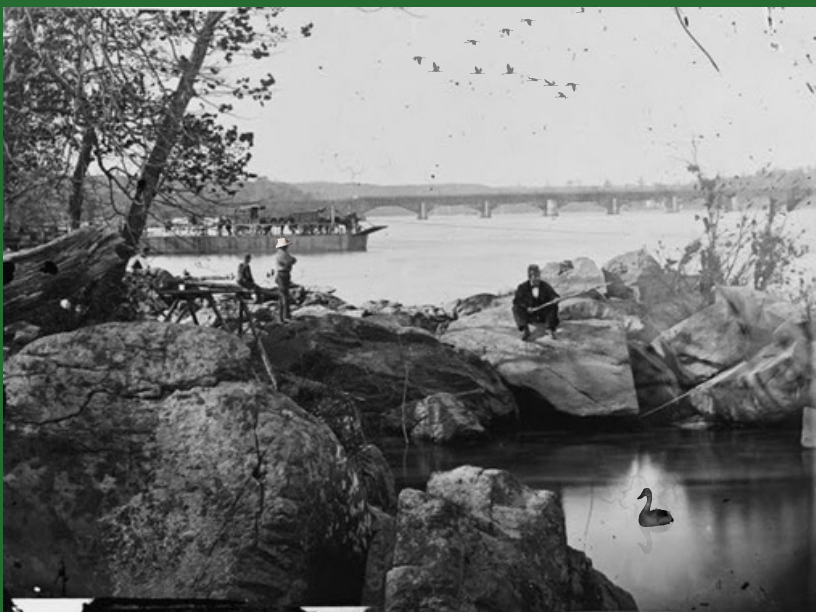


In the spring of 1863, two white Army chaplains lobbied President Lincoln to raise a regiment from this rising population. The request was granted in May of 1863. The two chaplains began recruiting for the 1st D.C. Colored Volunteers. The troop made their first public appearance as they marched through the streets of D.C. on May 15, 1863.

THE FIRST REGIMENT MOVES TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Washington, D.C. was the capital of the Union, but it was also a southern city. The citizenry was divided in their beliefs and loyalties.

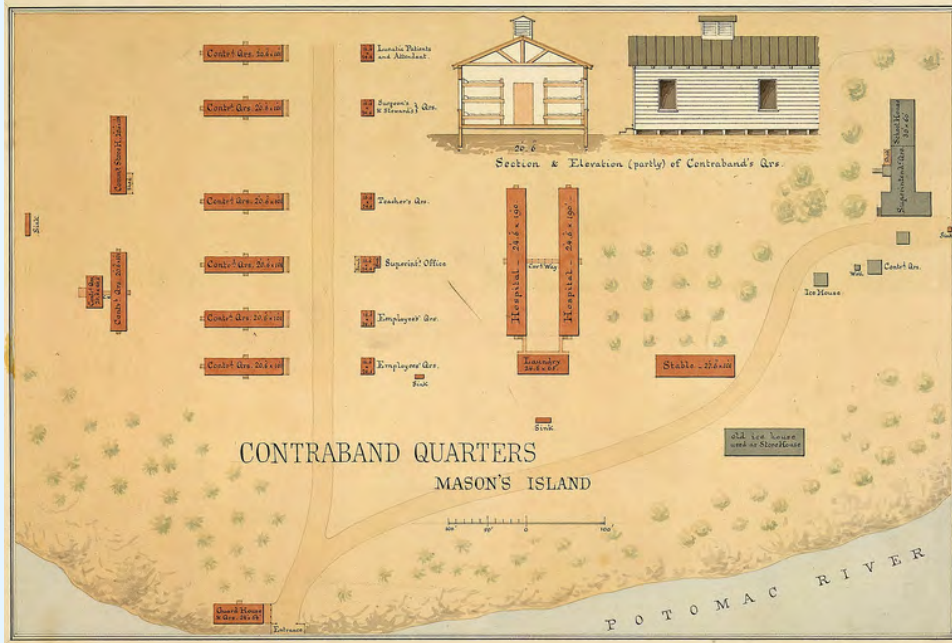
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



The 1st D.C. Colored Volunteers were met with hostility from residents. In order to assure the men's safety, in the middle of the night they were whisked to Mason Island, now known as Theodore Roosevelt Island. Their location was kept so secret that even President Lincoln did not know where they were, and he searched the city looking for them!

CAMP GREENE

MAP OF CAMP GREENE



By June 30th, ten companies (700 men) had been formed, all stationed on the island, occupying barracks and buildings called **Camp Greene**. On June 30th, 1863, the 1st District of Columbia Colored Volunteers was officially redesignated as the 1st United States Colored Troops.

DECODE THE ANSWER

What do you call a person who takes part in a resistance movement against an oppressive political or social establishment?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
22	23	24	25	26	*Africa were c	
V	W	X	Y	Z		

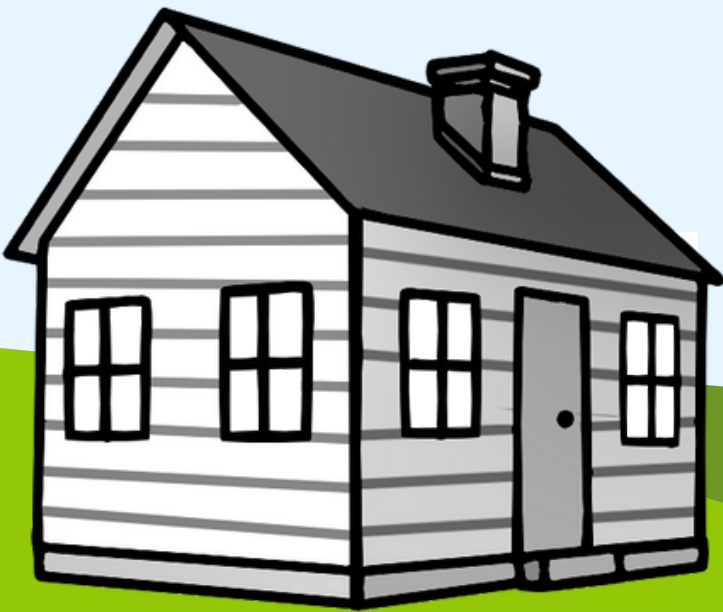
They would be considered α:

6	18	5	5	4	15	13
6	9	7	8	20	5	18

****African Americans who sought freedom from enslavement were considered to be these:***

CAMP GREENE AND THE NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Theodore Roosevelt Island is a part of the **Network to Freedom**. In 1998, legislation titled the *National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998* was passed, creating the program, **which honors, preserves and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight.**



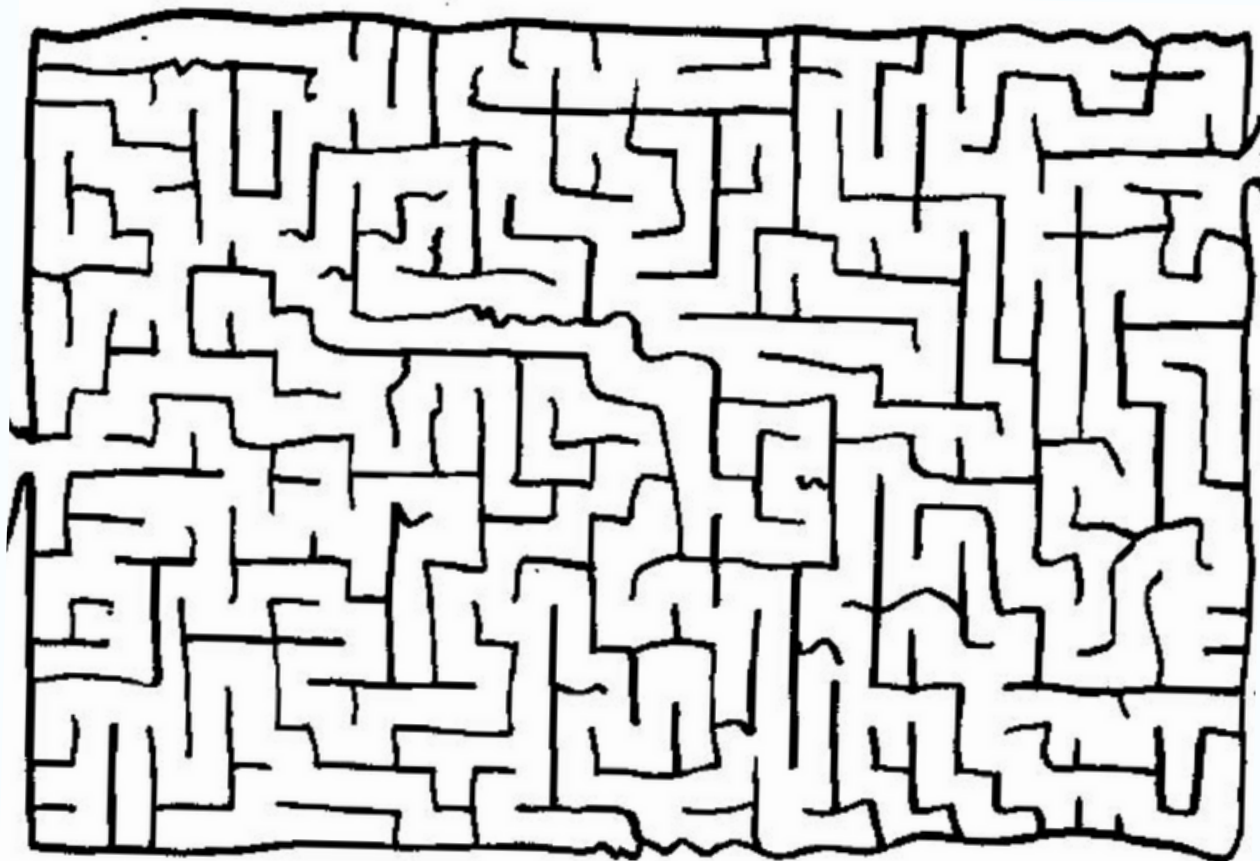
Which act allowed African Americans to fight in the Civil War?

Those who sought freedom from enslavement were known as "contrabands". In 1961, the U.S. government established contraband camps to provide shelter, medical care, clothing, food, and employment to these freedom seekers. In D.C., a camp called Freeman's Village was established on the Arlington Estate in 1863, but soon became overcrowded. Theodore Roosevelt Island was then established as an "employment depot" and served as both a training grounds for the Army and refugee camp for formerly enslaved individuals from late 1863 to 1865.

COMPLETE THE MAZE

AS YOU WORK THROUGH THE MAZE, REFLECT ON THE OBSTACLES THAT THOSE WHO ESCAPED ENSLAVEMENT WOULD HAVE FACED AT EVERY TURN

S
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D
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M

WHAT ARE SOME OBSTACLES THAT THE FREEDOM SEEKERS WHO ESCAPED ENSLAVEMENT WOULD HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME?



THE MILITARY SERVICE OF THE FIRST USCT REGIMENTS

BATTLE OF WILSON'S WHARF - MAY 24TH, 1864

This battle was fought mainly by African American Troops. Although the USCT were outnumbered, they held the Fort and sent the Confederate Army into retreat. This sent a signal to white Union soldiers that African American soldiers were ready and capable to fight on their own. Southern armies did not believe the accounts were true and the Confederate commanding officer downplayed the defeat to his superior officers.

SIEGE OF PETERSBURG - JUNE 1864 TO MARCH 1865

Siege of Petersburg Campaign lasted 10 months and saw the highest concentration of USCT in the war. The USCT participated in 6 major battles which cost many lives. The USCT represented approximately 13% of the total Union Troops on site but they represented 47% of the killed in action during the siege. They fought gallantly and bravely.

CAPTURE OF WILMINGTON - JAN. 13th TO 15th, 1865

The fort was the last remaining port for the Confederate Army, and the USCT were designated to hold back any reinforcements. The Union won the battle, cutting the last major supply line of the rebels. The Confederate Army surrendered less than three months later at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865.



ROBERT PINN

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. DRSEILO | 1. _____ |
| 2. ONNIU | 2. _____ |
| 3. MPAC NEEERG | 3. _____ |
| 4. ODEMRFE | 4. _____ |
| 5. TCUS | 5. _____ |
| 6. MIERGENT | 6. _____ |

THE UNIFORMS OF THE UNION ARMY AND THE USCT



THIS
COLORIZED
IMAGE OF
THE OF THE
USCT
SHOWS
WHAT THEIR
UNIFORMS
WOULD
HAVE
LOOKED
LIKE IN 1863

(USCT) at Fort Lincoln near Bladensburg, Maryland in 1865.

HOW WOULD YOU RANK THE IMPORTANCE OF ITEMS THE UNION SOLDIERS CARRIED IN 1863?

- BLANKET..... _____
- PONCHO..... _____
- RIFLE..... _____
- FOOD..... _____
- CANTEEN (WATER)..... _____
- AMMUNITION..... _____
- SCABBARD..... _____
- PISTOL..... _____
- TENT..... _____
- EXTRA CLOTHING..... _____
- SHELTER HALF (TENT)..... _____
- COFFEE MUG..... _____
- RUBBER BLANKET..... _____
- PERSONAL ITEM..... _____



WORD SEARCH

E A S O L D I E R S O M Z E V
E C O U R A G E O Z I A W M H
K D D M I L I T I A A C T A I
F J F I R S T R E G I M E N T
B C E Q U A L R I G H T S I M
C A M P G R E E N E G H W C R
R Z N F D G T V E O P T S P C
V C R R U Z S X Z C W N H A I
U I E E D E Q Y Y F H I B T E
Q V F E B R A V E R Y Q E I L
A I U D G P W O W V C U X O M
U L G O R E C R U I T M E N T
S W E M W U N I O N A R M Y R
C A P O T O M A C R I V E R M
T R F Z L O G W S R L W B E P

SOLDIERS
COURAGE
MILITIA ACT
FIRST REGIMENT

EMANCIPATION
USCT
CIVIL WAR
CAMP GREENE

BRAVERY
RECRUITMENT
UNION ARMY
POTOMAC RIVER

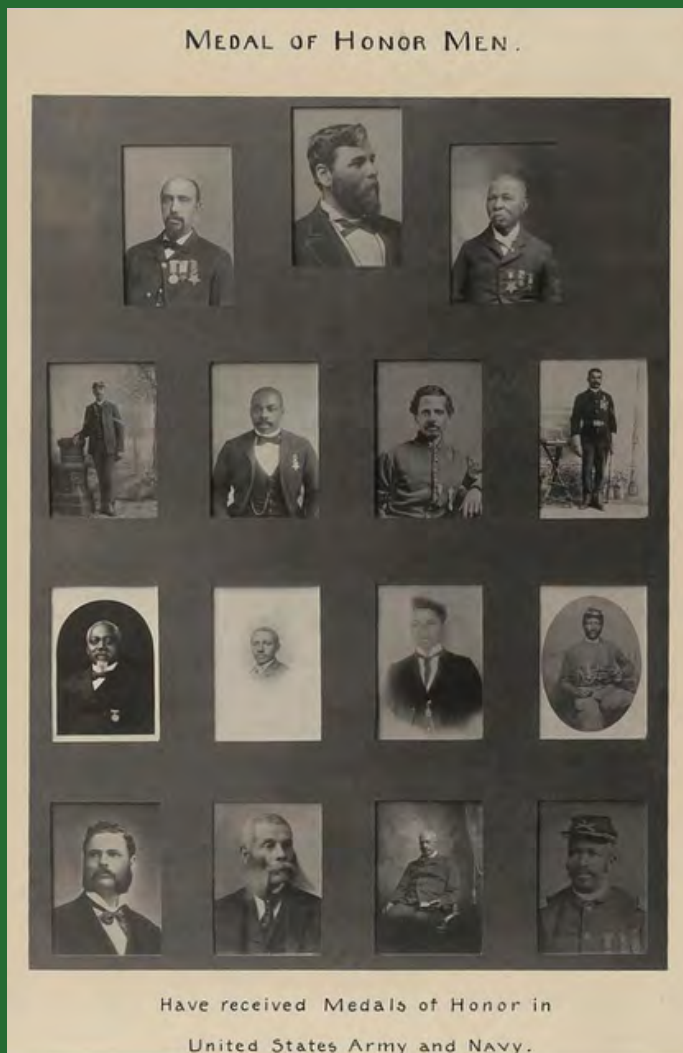
EQUAL RIGHTS

USCT MEDAL OF HONOR RECEPIENTS

On September 29, 1864, in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm to control Fort Harrison and Market Heights, the USCT fought on the front lines and continued the fight even after their commanding officers were shot down on the field. Because of this bravery and determination, 14 Medals of Honor were awarded for their actions on the battlefield.



MEDAL OF HONOR RECEPIENTS



NAMES OF RECEPIENTS

1. William Barnes
2. Beaty Powhatan
3. James Bronson
4. Christian Fleetwood
5. James Gardiner
6. James Harris
7. Thomas Hawkins
8. Alfred Hilton
9. Milton Holland
10. Miles James
11. Alexander Kelly
12. Robert Pinn
13. Edward Radcliff
14. Charles Veal

***HAVE YOU SEEN THESE MEN
DRAWN IN YOUR BOOKLET?***

REGIMENT FLAGS AND MOTTOES OF THE USCT

Each regiment of the USCT had their own flag and motto that represented the honor and traditions of their regiment. Flags were used when leading a charge into battle and served as a rallying point during conflict. Soldiers who carried the flag were targeted by enemies in hopes of causing confusion and lowering morale, making this position extremely dangerous and valiant.



3rd USCT

*"Rather Die Freeman than
Live to be Slaves"*



45th USCT

*"One Cause,
One Country"*



24th USCT

*"Let Soldiers in War Be
Citizens in Peace"*

DESIGN YOUR FLAG

WRITE YOUR MOTTO

THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C

The 1st Regiment of the USCT returned to D.C. on October 8, 1865. They were greeted by a very enthusiastic crowd, mostly of very proud African Americans.

October 10, 1865, President Andrew Johnson reviewed the Troops as they paraded on the White House grounds. He gave a 30-minute address of thanks and treated them to an elaborate banquet.

*PLEASE WRITE A SHORT THANK YOU
LETTER TO THE USCT HERE:*



HONORING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN UNION TROOPS

Located in Washington D.C. is the **African American Civil War Memorial**. This memorial is the only national memorial to honor the contributions of the USCT and sailors during the Civil War.



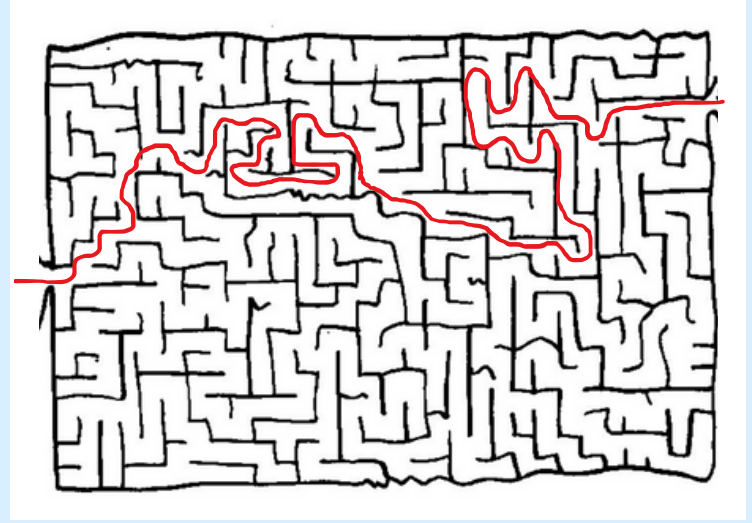
Inscribed on the Wall of Honor are the names of 185,000+ black soldiers and 7,000+ white officers who bravely fought in the Union Army and USCT.



The centerpiece of the memorial is the Spirit of Freedom statue, a bronze statue depicting three infantrymen and a sailor defending freedom.

The first generation of Black Regular Army regiments were composed of USCT veterans, formerly enslaved men, and freedmen. The soldiers gained the nickname “Buffalo Soldiers” from Indigenous peoples for their physical appearance and fighting prowess. *The Buffalo Soldiers served as the first Park Rangers, protecting America's national parks before the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916.*

ANSWER KEY



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. DRSEILO | 1. SOLDIER |
| 2. ONNIU | 2. UNION |
| 3. MPAC NEEERG | 3. CAMP GREENE |
| 4. ODEMRF | 4. FREEDOM |
| 5. TCUS | 5. USCT |
| 6. MIERGENT | 6. REGIMENT |

They would be considered a:

F R E E D O M

F I G H T E R

Which act allowed African Americans to fight in the Civil War?

MILITIA ACT

E A **S O L D I E R S** O M Z E V
 E **C O U R A G E** O Z I A W M H
 K D D **M I L I T I A** A C T A I
 F J **F I R S T** R E G I M E N T
 B C E **Q U A L R I G H T S** I M
 C A M P **G R E E N E** G H W C R
 R Z N F D G T V E O P T S P C
 V C R R U Z S X Z C W N H A I
 U I E E D E Q Y Y F H I B T E
 Q V F E **B R A V E R Y** Q E I L
 A I U D G P W O W V C U X O M
 U L G O **R E C R U I T M E N T**
 S W E M **W U N I O N** A R M Y R
 C A P O T O M A C R I V E R M
 T R F Z L O G W S R L W B E P



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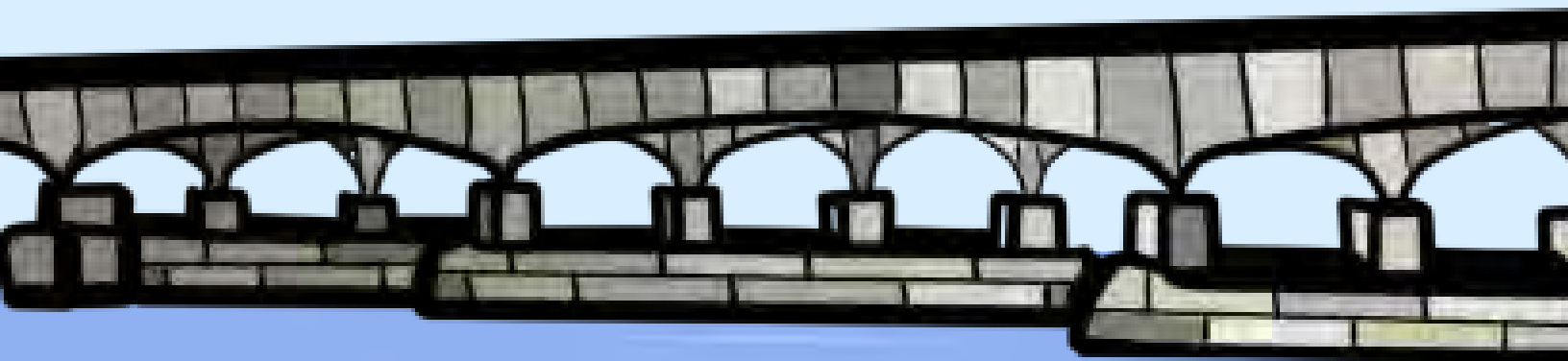
JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

I _____ am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger. I promise to protect, respect, and preserve the history and natural and cultural resources of Theodore Roosevelt Island and the United States Colored Troops. I will share what I learn with my friends and family.

JUNIOR RANGER SIGNATURE

RANGER OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE





For More Information

Learn more about Theodore Roosevelt Island: <https://www.nps.gov/this/index.htm>

Learn more about The USCT: <https://www.nps.gov/cane/united-states-colored-troops.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/network-to-freedom.htm>