

Featured Artifact: Christian Fleetwood's Medal of Honor

Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877)

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=3949>



Look at the artifact presented to you. In a few sentences, respond to the following questions:

Describe: Objectively describe the artifact. What do you think it is made of? What does it look like? Does it look old or new? Is it intact, or is it damaged in some way?

Analyze: When, where or how do you think this item was used? What kind of person may have created or used this item? What significance do you think the object held, either for the creator or the user? Do you see words or images on the artifact that connect it to others (besides the creator and user)?

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Share your conclusions with a partner, then discuss the following:

Evaluate : Justify why you came to those conclusions about the artifact. What further questions do you have about the object? Of those questions, which could you solve by observing the object in person and which would you need to solve with research?

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Background Information

This Medal of Honor was awarded to Sergeant Major Christian Fleetwood, 4th U.S. Colored Troops, for heroism on the field of battle at Chaffin's Farm on September 29, 1864. Fleetwood seized the colors after two color bearers had been shot down, and bore them nobly through the fight. Fleetwood was 23 years old.

After reading and considering the background information, compose a response to the following:

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

- Why do you think it was so important for Fleetwood to “seize the colors”?
- Why was it significant that Fleetwood was a member of the colored troops? What additional significance does this give his medal?

Synthesize: What does this object tell us about the era in which it was created, or the American experience as a whole? How would you describe the social, economic, or political climate of America during this time? What connections can you make between this object and other things that you have seen, read, or experienced?

Analyze: Address the following era-specific essential questions:

- How would you describe the course and character of the Civil War, and what were its effects on the American people?