

Featured Artifact: US Colored Troops Flag

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=4076>

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



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 flag belonged to the 84th Regiment of Infantry, United States Colored Troops. The red stripes bear the regiment's name and number and some of the battles in which the 84th fought.

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

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

- What do you think drove the Colored Troops to enlist? Why might they have decided to fight in the Civil War?
- Why do you think the 84th Regiment of Infantry decided to inscribe this flag with information about them?

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 questions:

- What caused the Civil War, and how did it affect the American people?