

Featured Artifact: Zouave Uniform

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/resource/?key=1142>

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

The colorful and exotic Algerian apparel that French soldiers saw when they invaded Algeria in 1830 captured their imagination. First adopted by French colonial soldiers in North Africa in the 1830s, the appeal of the dashing Zouave image quickly extended worldwide.

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

Analyze: Address the following object-specific questions:

- Why do you think this uniform had such wide appeal?
- Despite its appeal, do you think this uniform would have been practical or effective in battle? Why or why not?

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:

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