

Colored Soldiers in the Civil War

This activity accompanies “When Dey ‘Listed Colored Soldiers,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5216.

Activity Title: Colored Soldiers in the Civil War

Description: The students will explain the significance of enlisting colored soldiers into the Civil War.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: American History

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will explain the significance of enlisting colored soldiers into the Civil War.

Materials:

- “When Dey ‘Listed Colored Soldiers” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information on colored soldiers:
 - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2967.html>
 - http://americancivilwar.com/colored/Colored_Troops_Pictures-2.html

Procedures:

Read the poem with the students, or have them listen to it on the Lit2Go website (website link above). Discuss with the students the main idea and dialect of the poem. Then, visit the websites listed above with the students to teach them about the significance of the enlistment of colored soldiers into the Civil War. Next, have the students refer back to the poem to write an explanation for why ‘Lias would want to become enlisted in the war. Finally, have the students discuss their answers with a partner.

