

The Port Royal Experiment

This activity accompanies chapter 2 from *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois, record number 4899.

Activity Title: The Port Royal Experiment

Description: The students will research the Port Royal Experiment on the internet or in a history book, and then evaluate its effectiveness.

Subject: Social Studies

Skill: Civil War - Reconstruction

Behavioral Objective:

- The student will evaluate the Port Royal Experiment, during the Reconstruction after the Civil War.

Materials:

- *The Souls of Black Folk*, chapter 2, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencils
- History books or internet access

Procedures:

Read the second chapter of *The Souls of Black Folk* or have the students read it on their own. In this chapter Du Bois talks about the struggles of the newly freed slaves to become self sufficient. He specifically mentions the Port Royal Experiment. Have the students research, in pairs, what the Port Royal Experiment was intended to accomplish and have them evaluate its effectiveness. When the students have finished working, have a whole class discussion reviewing their answers.

Activity Extension:

Have the students research other programs similar to the Port Royal Experiment and compare the two.

