After the Civil War, many of the freed slaves chose to join the military because employment opportunities for African Americans were very scarce. The Buffalo Soldiers were often sent to the worst locations and were given poor equipment and provisions.

Frederic Remington was a famous artist who painted scenes from the American West. Mr. Remington’s paintings portrayed the courage and bravery of the Buffalo Soldiers as well as their difficult circumstances.

During the late 1800s, units from the 10th Cavalry and 25th Infantry participated in a military expedition where the troops used bicycles instead of horses as a means of transportation.

Where the Buffalo Roamed

Can you spot all six differences between these two scenes?

Word Search

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

- Infantry Soldier
- Army
- Courage
- Honor
- Civilian
- Military
- Battle
- Duty
- Cavalry
- Peace
- West
- Protect
- Tenth
- Buffalo
- Ninth
- War
- A Pawnee
- Tuesday
- The Peace
- Feast
- Amongst
- Sand and Uph
- Infantry
- Plan
- Fly
- Refraction
- Wit
- Pie
- Buffalo
- Mellow
- Protect
- NHB
- Pant
- Can
- Nothing
- Yr
- Lak
- Sol
- Bl
- Bymanateedex

Buffalo Soldiers

The Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to protect mail and stage routes, build and maintain forts, and keep the peace in the volatile American West. More than 10,000 African-American men (and at least one woman) had served with the Buffalo Soldiers before the mounted troops were disbanded in the 1950s.

One in every five of the U.S. Cavalry troops in the American West was a Buffalo Soldier.

It was established that only white officers would be allowed to lead the Buffalo Soldiers.

Lost in the Shuffle

The Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry were the first to reach the top of San Juan Hill during the famous battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba. During this battle, the soldiers of the 10th fought alongside Teddy Roosevelt’s “Rough Riders” and received almost no credit for their participation.

Buffalo Soldiers explored and mapped large areas of the American Southwest. They also string hundreds of kilometers of telegraph wire.

Henry Flipper was the first African-American to graduate from West Point Military Academy. He was later assigned to the 10th Cavalry.

Making History

The First two regiments of Buffalo Soldiers, the 9th and 10th Cavalry, were formed in 1866.

In 1894, four regiments of African-American soldiers were combined to form the 25th and 25th Infantry Regiments.

The original 9th and 10th Cavalries consisted of about 1,000 men each.

The Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest desertion rate among army units assigned to the American West.

For more information on the Buffalo Soldiers, go to your local library and check out these books:

- Emanuel Stance of the 9th Cavalry was the first Buffalo Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor. Members of the Buffalo Soldiers received more than 35 Medals of Honor by the end of the 1880s.

- The name “Buffalo Soldiers” was a source of pride for the troops because the buffalo was the most important animal to the Native Americans and was seen as a symbol of power and courage.

- The Buffalo Soldiers were often sent to the worst locations and were given poor equipment and provisions.

- The Buffalo Soldiers were assigned to protect mail and stage routes, build and maintain forts, and keep the peace in the volatile American West.

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