

Tuskegee Airmen Worksheet Answers

Name: _____ EQ: How were minorities treated during WWII in the USA?

Directions: Answer each question based on the reading above. A bonus bonus <https://www.history.com/topics/us-history/tuskegee-airmen>

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Tuskegee Experiment
The War Department chose the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, Alabama, then under construction. Home to the prestigious Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington, it was located in the heart of the Jim Crow South where African Americans trained. The program's trainees prior to entering the program, nearly all of them college graduates or undergraduates, came from all over the country. In addition to some 1,000 pilots, the Tuskegee program trained nearly 15,000 navigators, bombardiers, instructors, aircraft and engine mechanics, aerial tower operators and maintenance and support staff.

1. When did African Americans train?

2. Who founded this location?

3. How did trainees prior to entering the program already have experience?

4. What occupations did the Tuskegee program train for? (3 examples)

Benjamin O. Davis Jr.
Among the 11 members of the first class of aviation cadets in 1941 was Benjamin O. Davis Jr., one of two Black officers (other than chaplains) in the entire U.S. military.

5. How did Benjamin O. Davis Jr. have a unique position in the military during this time?

Tuskegee Airmen in World War II
In April 1943, the Tuskegee-trained 99th Pursuit Squadron deployed to North Africa, which the Allies had occupied. In North Africa and then Sicily, they flew missions in P-40 planes, which were slower and more difficult to use than the German planes. After the commander of the 99th's assigned fighter group complained about the squadron's performance, Davis had to defend his men before a War Department committee. The 332nd Fighter Group which was initially engaged in **diver-bombing and shelling missions**, was stationed at Ramatelli Airfield on Italy's Adriatic coast and given a new assignment: from June 1944 to March 1945 they would escort Fifth Army Air Force heavy bombers on raids into **Nazi Germany**. When they received P-51 Mustang fighters marked by **red paint on the tail section of their aircraft**, the pilots of the 332nd became known as the **Red Tails**.

6. Why were missions more difficult compared to the Germans for the Tuskegee Airmen?

7. What did the 332nd Fighter Group initially engage in?

8. Why were the pilots known as the "Red Tails"?

Tuskegee Airmen Legacy
By the time the 332nd flew its last combat mission on April 26, 1945, two weeks before the German surrender, the Tuskegee Airmen had flown more than 15,000 individual raids over two years in combat. They helped the Allies by **destroying or damaging 36 German planes in the air and 237 on the ground**, as well as nearly 1,000 railcars and transport vehicles and a German warship. In all, 66 Tuskegee-trained aviators were killed in action during World War II, while another 12 were **captured as POWs** after being shot down.

9. How did Tuskegee Airmen help the Allies? (2 examples)

Armed Forces Integrated
After their brave service, the Tuskegee Airmen returned home to a country where they continued to face systematic racism and prejudice. But they did represent an important step forward in preparing the nation for the racial integration of the military, which began with President Harry Truman who issued **Executive Order 9801** desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces and mandating equality of opportunity and treatment on July 26, 1948.

10. How did Executive Order 9801 change the armed forces?

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Tuskegee Airmen worksheet answers are a valuable educational resource that helps students understand the significant contributions and experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American military pilots who fought bravely in the war, breaking racial barriers and challenging the status quo in a time of widespread segregation. This article delves into their history, achievements, and the impact they made, providing insights that can enhance understanding when completing worksheets on the topic.

The Historical Context of the Tuskegee Airmen

To fully appreciate the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen, it is essential to explore the historical context in which they emerged.

Segregation and Racial Discrimination

- Jim Crow Laws: In the early 20th century, especially during the 1930s and 1940s, the United States was rife with racial segregation enforced by Jim Crow laws. These laws institutionalized a system of racial discrimination that affected every aspect of life, including education, employment, and military service.
- Limited Opportunities: African Americans were largely excluded from many professions, particularly in the military, where they were relegated to non-combat roles or completely barred from service.

The Rise of the Tuskegee Airmen Program

- Formation of the Program: The Tuskegee Airmen program was established in 1941 as part of the U.S. Army Air Corps' efforts to train African American pilots. The program was located at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, a historically Black college founded by Booker T. Washington.
- First Black Pilots: The first class of cadets graduated in 1942, marking the beginning of a new chapter in American military history.

The Achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen made remarkable contributions during World War II, and their accomplishments are a testament to their skill and bravery.

Combat Missions and Statistics

- Fighter Groups: The most well-known unit was the 332nd Fighter Group, which included the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons.
- Mission Success: The Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 sorties and were credited with destroying

over 260 enemy aircraft. They also provided escort for bombers, ensuring successful missions against enemy targets.

Recognition and Awards

- Distinguished Flying Cross: Many Tuskegee Airmen received commendations for their valor, including the Distinguished Flying Cross.
- Presidential Recognition: In 2007, the Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian honors in the United States, recognizing their courage and contributions to the war effort.

The Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen

The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen extends beyond their wartime achievements. Their impact on society and the military is profound.

Breaking Racial Barriers

- Integration of the Military: The success of the Tuskegee Airmen played a crucial role in the eventual desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which led to the integration of the military.
- Inspiration for Future Generations: The Tuskegee Airmen became role models for future generations of African Americans, inspiring countless individuals to pursue careers in aviation and other fields that were previously closed to them.

Cultural Impact

- Media Representation: The story of the Tuskegee Airmen has been depicted in various films, documentaries, and books, bringing their history to a wider audience. Notable films include "Red Tails" and "The Tuskegee Airmen."
- Educational Programs: Many schools and organizations have developed curricula and programs to educate students about the Tuskegee Airmen, ensuring that their contributions are not forgotten.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Tuskegee Airmen

To further aid in understanding the Tuskegee Airmen, here are some frequently asked questions that may be included in Tuskegee Airmen worksheet answers.

1. Who were the Tuskegee Airmen?

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military pilots in the United States Armed Forces, trained at Tuskegee Institute during World War II.

2. What was the significance of their training at Tuskegee Institute?

Tuskegee Institute provided a unique opportunity for African Americans to receive flight training and gain military experience, challenging the prevailing notion that they were not capable of serving as pilots.

3. What were the major accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen

during the war?

The Tuskegee Airmen flew over 15,000 sorties, received numerous awards for valor, and played a vital role in escorting bombers during missions, significantly contributing to the war effort.

4. How did the Tuskegee Airmen influence the integration of the military?

Their success demonstrated the capabilities of African Americans in combat roles, leading to the desegregation of the U.S. military in 1948.

5. What honors have been bestowed upon the Tuskegee Airmen?

In addition to the Distinguished Flying Cross and other awards, the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 as recognition of their service and sacrifice.

Conclusion

The Tuskegee Airmen worksheet answers serve as a gateway to understanding a pivotal chapter in American history. The Airmen not only fought bravely in World War II but also laid the groundwork for future generations to challenge racial barriers. Their legacy continues to inspire and educate, reminding us of the importance of courage, perseverance, and the fight for equality. As students complete their worksheets, they gain not only knowledge about the Tuskegee Airmen but also a deeper appreciation for the significance of their contributions to American society and the military. Through their stories, we learn about resilience and the power of determination in the face of adversity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were the Tuskegee Airmen known for?

The Tuskegee Airmen were known for being the first African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces during World War II.

What was the significance of the Tuskegee Airmen in U.S. military history?

The Tuskegee Airmen played a crucial role in challenging racial segregation in the military and contributed to the eventual desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces.

What type of missions did the Tuskegee Airmen primarily undertake?

The Tuskegee Airmen primarily undertook bomber escort missions and ground support operations during World War II.

How did the Tuskegee Airmen impact the Civil Rights Movement?

The success and bravery of the Tuskegee Airmen helped lay the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement by demonstrating that African Americans could excel in roles previously denied to them.

What training program was established for the Tuskegee Airmen?

The Tuskegee Institute established a training program for African American pilots, which became known as the Tuskegee Airmen training program.

What is the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen today?

The legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen today is celebrated for their contributions to aviation and civil rights, inspiring future generations of pilots and activists.

What awards and recognitions have the Tuskegee Airmen received?

The Tuskegee Airmen have received numerous awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007, in recognition of their service and sacrifices during World War II.

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