

Directions:

1. Students will understand the role of African Americans in U.S. military from the time of Revolutionary War through World War II.

Resources: Background essay and Bernard C. Nalty's *Strength for the Fight: a History of Black Americans in the Military*.

2. Students will understand the historical significance of the Tuskegee Airmen in relation to African Americans in the military and the future desegregation of the U.S. military. Click on this link for background information about Tuskegee Airmen.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Tuskegee/airoverview.htm>

Click on this link to see historic photographs of Tuskegee Airmen.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/airgallery.htm>

Example of Primary Document related to Tuskegee Airmen:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/1gimage/air32.3.htm>

3. Students will learn about the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen and the first class at Tuskegee, including the role of Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.
 - ◆ Tuskegee was selected by the United States Congress in 1939 as a training facility for black pilots.
 - ◆ Tuskegee's first class began training in January of 1941 and was deployed overseas in April 15 of 1943.
 - ◆ The Tuskegee Airmen, as these trainees would later be called, served from 1941 to 1946.
 - ◆ Today, the heritage of the Tuskegee Airmen and other notable Tuskegee innovators is preserved by the National Park Service through the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site. In addition to the Tuskegee Airmen, the site celebrates the legacies of Booker T. Washington (established the "Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers"—later known as the Tuskegee Institute) and George Washington Carver (teacher at Tuskegee that arose to prominence from the ashes of slavery).¹

Play Clip C [1:33 minutes] of Mack Hopkins interview in which Hopkins discusses the formation of the Tuskegee Airmen and Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

- ◆ Who was Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.?

¹ National Park Service, "Legends of Tuskegee," National Park Service, <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/intro.htm>> (accessed May 22, 2007).

- ◆ Why was he significant to African Americans in the United States military?
- ◆ Should he be regarded as a civil rights leader? Why or why not?

Click on these links to see historic photographs of Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/tuskegee/lgimage/air27.htm>

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Tuskegee/lgimage/air25.htm>

5. Students will assume the role of leadership in the United States Air Corp during the time of the Tuskegee Airmen (1942-1946). Students will develop a proposal to support the continuance of the Tuskegee Airmen in the face of white opposition.