

The Role of African Americans in American History 1770-1800

**Middle School 8th grade
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DIRECTION: Analyze the following documents. Use the documents and your knowledge of American history, to answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers will help you write a short essay related to the documents.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The United States changed itself into a democracy for white American. The nation grew tremendously from 1660-1800. Slavery spread throughout the west just as rapidly as the country grew. For Africans this was a time of a mixture of forced enslavement and a time to try to free blacks that had not yet been emancipated.

QUESTION:

From a New generation of African American leadership emerged free blacks and fugitive slave who want to be included in American democracy. Explain what it be like to be free black and fugitive slaves in American during the 18th century. How might it be different from being a free white person? In your essay include the reason why the church was so important in the lives of free slaves.

Document 1

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY'S Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the same.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N .

AS I have ever entertained Hopes that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, firing on His MAJESTY'S TENDERS, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY'S Troops and destroy the well disposed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such treasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be effected, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Lige Subjects, to retain their Quirents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own-Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former salutary Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM, off NORTOLK, the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)

Proclamation of Earl of Dunmore

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His MAJESTY'S Lieutenant and Governor General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the fame.

A PROCLAMATION.

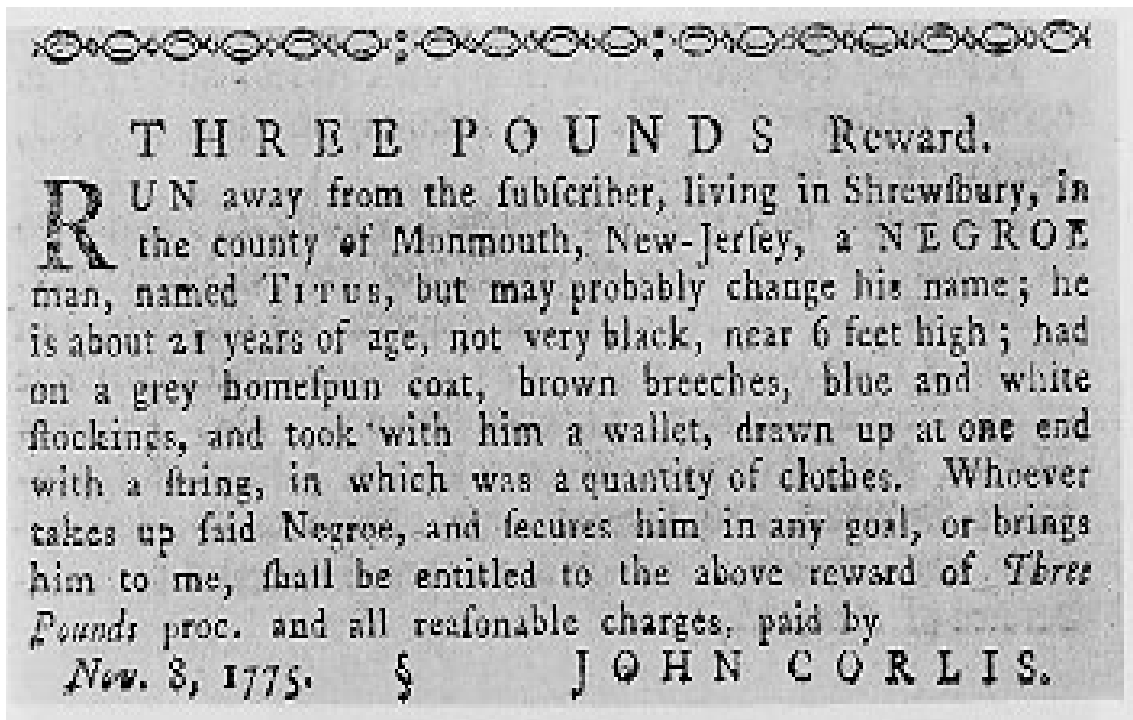
As I have ever entertained Hopes that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this moft difagreeable but now abfolutely neceffary Step, rendered fo by a Body of armed Men unlawfully affembled, bring on His MAJESTY'S [Tenders], and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His MAJESTY'S troops and deftroy the well difpofed Subjects of this Colony. To defeat fuch unreafonable Purpofes, and that all fuch Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Juftice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again reftored, which the ordinary Courfe of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to iffue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforefaid good Purpofes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and caufe the fame to be executed throughout this Colony: and to the end that Peace and good Order may the fooner be [effected], I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to [refort] to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon fuch Offences; fuch as forfeiture of Life, indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are confifcation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as foon as may be, for the more fpeedily reducing this Colony to a proper Senfe of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Leige Subjects, to retain their [Qui?rents], or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Cuftody, till fuch Time as Peace may be again reftored to this at prefent moft unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former falutary Purpofes, by Officers properly authorifed to receive the fame.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the ship WILLIAM, off NORPOLE, the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His MAJESTY'S Reign.
DUNMORE.

(GOD fave the KING.)

1. Based on Dunmore's Proclamation what was the purpose of the new army he was trying to build?
2. What was Dunmore ranking and title?
3. What did Dunmore Proclamation call those who didn't take up arms?
4. Who did he include in the recruitment for military help?

Document 2



Titus was one of four young black men owned by John Corlies of Shrewsbury, in the eastern part of Monmouth County, New Jersey. In November 1775, the day after Dunmore's Proclamation was issued, 22-year old Titus fled from his cruel, quick-tempered master, joining the flood of blacks who sought refuge with the British as soldiers, sailors and workers.

In this ad for Titus's capture and return, dated November 22, 1775, Corlies correctly anticipated

that Titus "will probably change his name." Three years later the former slave gained notoriety as Captain Tye, the pride of Dunmore's Ethiopian Regiment, who led a guerrilla campaign against Monmouth County slaveholders.

5. Describe the fugitive that escaped in document 1.

6. What did the owner anticipate that the runaway slave would do after running away?

Document 3

Despite initial resistance to their participation, black soldiers fought for the patriot cause in every major battle of the Revolutionary War, including the military engagement that began it on April 19, 1775 -- the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Prince Easterbrooks (also referred to as Estabrook) served in nearly every major campaign of the war. An undated broadside identifying him as " a Negro Man" lists Easterbrooks among the wounded from Lexington "in the late Engagement with His Majesty's Troops at Concord, &c." Easterbrooks had enlisted in the company of Captain John Parker, the first to engage the British at Lexington.

Peter Salem, whose Framingham masters had freed him so that he could enlist, was also among the dozen or more black men, slave and free, who fought that day. Salem and Cuff Whitmore later gained fame and commendation for their parts in the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Lemuel Haynes, a free black man who would later become a renowned minister, did not join the battle against the British until late in April; nevertheless, he wrote a poem about the battle at Lexington.

7. According to the document, were the Free slaves rewarded for their service in the revolutionary war? If so what was the reward?



8. How are these men dressed? Why do you think they are dressed that way?

9. Are these men African American? What type of life do you think they had?

Document 5

African American History:

Timeline: 1700 - 1800

1770—Crispus Attucks, an escaped slave, becomes the first Colonial resident to die for American independence when he is killed by the British in the Boston Massacre.

1772—On June 22, Lord Chief Mansfield rules in the James Somerset case that an enslaved person brought to England becomes free and cannot be returned to slavery, laying the legal basis for the freeing of England's 15,000 slaves.

1773—Phillis Wheatley publishes a book of poetry.

The Silver Bluff Baptist Church, the oldest continuously operating black church, is founded in Silver Bluff, South Carolina near Savannah, Georgia.

1774—A group of blacks petition the Massachusetts General Court (legislature) insisting they too have a natural right to their freedom.

1775-1781—The American War of Independence. Approximately 450,000 enslaved Africans comprise 20% of the population of the colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence.

1775—African Americans participate on the Patriot side in the earliest battles of the Revolution, Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill.

General George Washington reverses his earlier policy of rejecting the services of slaves and free blacks in the army. Five thousand African-Americans serve during the Revolutionary War including two predominantly black units in Massachusetts, one in Connecticut, one in Rhode Island.

The first Abolition Society meeting in North America is held Philadelphia; Benjamin Franklin is elected president of the Society.

On Nov. 7, Lord Dunmore, British Governor of Virginia declares all slaves free who come to the defense of the British Crown against the Patriot forces. Dunmore eventually organizes the first regiment of black soldiers to fight under the British flag.

1776—A passage authored by Thomas Jefferson condemning the slave trade is removed from the Declaration of Independence due to pressure from the southern colonies.

Approximately 100,000 enslaved people flee their masters during the Revolution.

1777—Vermont abolishes slavery.

1778—Boston businessman Paul Cuffe and his brother, John, refuse to pay taxes, claiming as blacks not allowed to vote they suffer taxation without representation.

1780—Massachusetts abolishes slavery and grants African American men the right to vote.

The Free African Union Society is created in Newport, Rhode Island. It is the first cultural organization established by blacks in North America.

Pennsylvania adopts first gradual emancipation law. All children of enslaved people born after Nov. 1, 1780 will be free on their 28th birthday.

1781-1783—Twenty thousand black loyalists depart with British Troops from the newly independent United States. Approximately 5,000 African Americans served with Patriot forces. Three times that many served with the British although not all of them leave the new nation.

1781—Los Angeles is founded by fifty-four settlers including twenty-six of African ancestry.

1784—Connecticut and Rhode Island adopt gradual emancipation laws.

Congress rejects Thomas Jefferson's proposal to exclude slavery from all western territories after 1800.

1785—New York frees all slaves who served in the Revolutionary Army.

1787—Congress enacts the Northwest Ordinance, which establishes formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provides for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance includes a Bill of Rights that guarantees freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the region.

The U.S. Constitution is drafted. It provides for the continuation of the slave trade for another 20 years and required states to aid slaveholders in the recovery of fugitive slaves. It also stipulates that a slave counts as three-fifths of a man for purposes of determining representation in the House of Representatives.

Free blacks in New York City found the African Free School, where future leaders Henry Highland Garnett and Alexander Crummell are educated.

Richard Allen and Absalom Jones form the Free African Society in Philadelphia.

1788—In Massachusetts, following an incident in which free blacks were kidnapped and transported to the island of Martinique, the Massachusetts legislature declares the slave trade illegal and provides monetary damages to victims of kidnappings.

1789—The French Revolution begins.

1790—First Census of the United States

U.S. Population: 3,929,214

Black Population: 757,208 (19.3%) including 59,557 free African Americans.

Free African Americans in Charleston form the Brown Fellowship Society.

1791—The Haitian Revolution begins.

1793—The United States Congress enacts the first Fugitive Slave Law. Providing assistance to fugitive slaves is now a criminal offense.

Eli Whitney patents the cotton gin on March 13 which begins the slave-based "cotton economy" of the South.

1794—The French Government abolishes slavery. The law is repealed by Napoleon in 1802.

Mother Bethel AME Church is established in Philadelphia.

New York adopts a gradual emancipation law.

1793—New Spain's (Colonial Mexico) population includes 6,100 blacks and 369,790 mulattoes.

1795—Bowdoin College is founded in Maine. It later becomes a center for Abolitionist activity; Gen. Oliver O. Howard (Howard University) graduated from the college; Harriet Beecher Stowe taught there and began to write Uncle Tom's Cabin while there (in 1850)

1796—On August 23, The African Methodist Episcopal Church is organized in Philadelphia.

1800—Census of 1800

U.S. Population: 5,308,483

Black Population: 1,002,037 (18.9%) including 108,435 free African Americans.

Gabriel Prosser attempts a slave rebellion in Virginia

The United States Congress rejects 85 to 1 an antislavery petition offered by free Philadelphia African Americans.

10. Based on the timeline, what did some free blacks accomplish from 1770-1805?

11. What was life like for White Americans during the time period of 1770-1805?

Now you are ready to write your essay, using your own knowledge and the answers you have found in the documents.

QUESTION:

From a New generation of African American leadership emerged free blacks and fugitive slave who want to be included in American democracy. Explain what it be like to be free black and fugitive slaves in American during the 18th century. How might it be different from being a free white person? In your essay include the reason why the church was so important in the lives of free slaves.

Rubric Checklist

Does your essay:

- **Address all aspects of the question by analyzing, and interpreting at least four documents.**
- **Include information provided by the document.**
- **Incorporate relevant background information that addresses your theme**
- **Support your arguments with facts.**
- **Include a clear and logical format**
- **Have a summation of the theme.**