"I DRILLED THEM WITH CORNSTALKS:" WILLIAM H. SINGLETON, A BLACK SOLDIER'S STORY
TEACHER TOOL 4

This Teacher Tool provides the correct answers to the questions in Student Handout 2.

1. The following are six major events that occurred in William Henry Singleton's life when he accompanied Confederate officer Samuel Hymans into the Civil War as a servant. Put these major events in chronological order based on your reading of the excerpt of Singleton's narrative:

   - Singleton learned to drill by drilling Confederate troops for Hymans.
   - Singleton crossed over into a Union camp and became contraband; then he went to work as a servant for General Burnside.
   - Singleton served as a guide for the Union Army but after a horse was shot out from under him, he quit when his superior officer refused to give him a gun for protection.
   - After leaving the employ of the Union Army, Singleton recruited a regiment of 1000 black men and drilled them "with cornstalks for guns."
   - In 1863, Union soldiers were finally allowed to participate in the War and a white man was sent to command the regiment Singleton started, known as the 35th regiment, United States Colored Troops.
   - Singleton was honorably discharged after being wounded in battle in Florida and his discharge is one of his most prized possessions.

2. Which of the following statements is true? Circle your answer.

   African Americans served:

   a. in the army beginning shortly after the Civil War started.
   b. in the navy two years after the war started.
   c. in the army beginning in 1863.
   d. none of the above.

3. Which of the following statements is true? Circle your answer.

   a. Because they were not citizens in the United States, former slaves did not care about the Civil War.
   b. African Americans made up 10% of the Union Army by the end of the Civil War.
   c. No black regiments saw action.
   d. William Henry Singleton brought 10 black soldiers with him when he was able to enlist in the military.

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4. Approximately how many black soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War? Circle your answer.

    a. 10,000
    b. 17,000
    c. 7,000
    d. 20,000
    e. 37,000

5. Which of the following statements describe black troops? Circle your answer.

    a. They served valiantly.
    b. They faced discrimination.
    c. They were fighting for freedom for enslaved people.
    d. They believed their service would improve their opportunities after the war.
    e. All of the above.

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