



Who were the Buffalo Soldiers? How did they help settle the west?

The Buffalo Soldiers were African American Cavalry and Infantry Units. They played an important part in settling the American West. According to some sources, Native Americans gave them the name of Buffalo Soldiers.

To the left is a photo of typical Buffalo Soldiers.

How were the Buffalo Soldiers' units formed? Why did they serve?

| 1861-1865 | 1866 | 1866-1890 |
|--|---|--|
| African-American Soldiers fought in combat in the Civil War. | Black soldiers who served in the Civil War were recruited for segregated regiments who later came to be known as Buffalo Soldiers. They worked under difficult conditions, but for far more pay than they could receive in civilian life. | Buffalo Soldiers patrolled the American West as land west of the Mississippi River was taken from Native Americans and settled by white people. To the left is a poster advertising a sale of millions of acres of land. |



What was the focus of the Buffalo Soldiers' service in the West?



They guarded settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews. Below, they guard a stagecoach in Kansas in 1869.



They conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes on the western frontier. In this photograph, the Buffalo Soldiers 10th Cavalry is at a gallop.



They protected national parks and built infra-structure like roads and buildings. Here, they ride on horseback over a huge fallen redwood tree while guarding from poachers.