

Voices That Shaped America

Trace African American resilience, contributions, and influence from colonial times to the West.

SS.5.AA.1 "Resiliency, contributions, and influence of African Americans on the United States beginning in the colonial era through westward expansion."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows African Americans acting with resilience, making a contribution, or influencing the United States. Write R, C, or I beside each detail.

Actions Across Eras

- ① During the colonial era, many African Americans lived under slavery, yet they built families, churches, skills, and communities. In 1770, Crispus Attucks, a sailor of African and Native ancestry, was killed in the Boston Massacre. His death became a symbol for Patriots who opposed British rule. African American soldiers also served on both sides during the American Revolution.
- ② After independence, free Black leaders pushed the nation to match its words about liberty. In Philadelphia, James Forten used money from his sailmaking business to support antislavery work and Black education. He spoke against plans to send free Black people out of the United States. Forten's actions showed that African Americans shaped debates about citizenship and freedom.
- ③ During westward expansion, Black settlers faced prejudice and laws that limited where they could live. George Washington Bush, a free Black farmer, traveled with his family to the Oregon Country in 1845. Because of exclusion laws there, the group settled north of the Columbia River, in what later became Washington Territory. Bush helped establish the community of Tumwater, showing resilience and influence in the growing West.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What details from the first paragraph show resilience among African Americans during the colonial era?

2 What two causes did James Forten support with money from his business?

3 What problem did George Washington Bush's group face, and how did the group respond?

4 Use two examples from different paragraphs to explain how African Americans influenced the United States.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two people or groups from the passage. Write exactly four sentences that explain a challenge they faced, actions they took, and how their actions contributed to or influenced the United States.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that shows African Americans acting with resilience, making a contribution, or influencing the United States. Write R, C, or I beside each detail. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What details from the first paragraph show resilience among African Americans during the colonial era?	They built families, churches, skills, and communities while many lived under slavery.
2	What two causes did James Forten support with money from his business?	He supported antislavery work and Black education.
3	What problem did George Washington Bush's group face, and how did the group respond?	The group faced exclusion laws in the Oregon Country, so it settled north of the Columbia River.
4	Use two examples from different paragraphs to explain how African Americans influenced the United States.	Answers will name two supported examples, such as Attucks becoming a symbol for Patriots, Forten shaping debates about citizenship and freedom, or Bush helping establish Tumwater.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Crispus Attucks and James Forten influenced the United States in different ways. Attucks's death in the Boston Massacre became a symbol for Patriots opposing British rule. Forten used money from his business for antislavery work and Black education. Both helped people think about freedom, but Forten also shaped debates about citizenship.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately cites the passage. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences, two people or groups, a challenge or context, actions, and a supported explanation of contribution or influence.