

Teaching American History Project

Lesson Title – Massachusetts 54th Raid at Darien, Georgia Shaw Letter from Art Blais
Grade 9-12

Length of class period – 45 minutes...plan for one class period, two if you read the letter with students.

Inquiry- What is the significance of the expectations of Colonel Shaw of his men in the 54th compared to other regiments?

Materials: Letter by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw to his wife, Annie, about the Raid at Darien, Georgia.

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6732/files/rgs_darien.html?200721

Image Analysis Worksheet: Page 92

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/document.html>

Activities: For homework, students will read Shaw's letter to his wife explaining his experience in Darien, Georgia. After reading the document, students will complete a written document analysis worksheet. In class, students will be put into groups of two to discuss the significance of the primary source and the differences between the expectations of the two commanding officers, and the impact this will have on the success of colored units in the war. Then the class will come back together and share their findings, the focus being the high expectations Shaw has for the 54th and the impact that will have on the war and the status and social change. Could be done in conjunction to the film "Glory".

How will you assess what students learned during this lesson?

Formal: Analysis Worksheet

Informal: Small group and class discussion

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards

- demonstrate an under-standing of the ways that cultural encounters and the interaction of people of different cultures in pre-modern as well as modern times have shaped new identities and ways of life;
- describe, explain and analyze political, economic and social consequences that came about as the resolution of conflict;
- demonstrate an under-standing of the ways race, gender, ethnicity and class issues have affected individuals and societies in the past;