

# **Historic Impressions**

## ***Courage in the Skies: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen***

### **Lesson and Curriculum Guide**

This program chronicles the Tuskegee Airmen's participation in World War II. The presentation will cover general information on WWII and the unique struggles of the Tuskegee Airmen at home and overseas. Their true stories of adventure and courage high above ground will have audiences flying high with excitement. Their struggles, sacrifices, and determination on the ground will inspire all generations. These men performed a tremendous service for their country and their comrades. This program honors that service.

#### **Social Studies Content Standards and Correlating Content Statements**

##### **High School**

Topic: Prosperity, Depression and the New Deal (1919-1941)

17. Racial intolerance, anti-immigrant attitudes and the Red Scare contributed to social unrest after World War I.

Topic: From Isolation to World War (1930-1945)

21. During the 1930s, the U.S. government attempted to distance the country from earlier interventionist policies in the Western Hemisphere as well as retain an isolationists approach to events in Europe and Asia until the beginning of WWII.
22. The United States mobilization of its economic and military resources during World War II brought significant changes to American society.

Topic: Social Transformations in the United States (1945-1994)

28. Following World War II. The United States experienced a struggle for racial and gender equality and the extension of civil rights.

##### **Grades 4-5 Language Arts**

###### **KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE**

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

###### **VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE**

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

## Vocabulary

Executive Order	Pioneer	Army Air Corps
Aviation	Segregation	War Department
Black Press	Pursuit Squadron	Discrimination

## Pre-Program Activities

1. Study vocabulary words.
2. Read suggested books below.
3. Have students read a biography or do research on Benjamin Davis Jr. and/or another specific Tuskegee Airman

## Post-Program Activities

1. Have students pretend to be an American pilot during WWII and write a few journal entries describing their experiences.
2. Have students write a pretend letter to their congressman, governor, or the President asking for his/her support for a particular issue (environment, education costs, rights as a minor, etc.).
3. Have students do some more research on the WWII, then create a board game including principle people involved with the war, and the many issues surrounding it.
4. Review and discuss the consequences of WWII and American policies that changed after the war.

## Supplemental Reading

- Moyer, Todd J. *Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Johnson, Angela. *Wind Flyers*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2006.
- Francis, Charles. *The Tuskegee Airmen: The Men who changed a Nation*. Boston: Branden Books, 2008