

Timeline Worksheet Teacher Guide

Source Name	Actual Date	Questions for Student Discussion
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order 8802	June 25, 1941	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did this executive order ban? Why do you think President Roosevelt took this action? What opportunities would this act provide for African Americans and other minorities?
Photograph, A platoon of African-American Marines listening to their drill instructor	April 1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What challenges faced men in Marine Corps Boot Camp during World War II? What additional challenges would African American men face?
Photograph, Montford Point Marines in their dress uniforms	May 1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> African American men were not required to have a Marine dress uniform during World War II. They were required to purchase the uniform from their first paycheck. Why did you think these men purchased and wore the uniform?
Photograph, African American Marines awaiting orders on the beaches of Saipan in the Mariana Islands	June 1944	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What challenges did African American Marines confront when they faced combat? How do you think this experience influenced how they were seen by other members of the Armed Forces?
Song Lyrics, "The Blinding of Isaac Woodard"	1946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sort of reception did African American servicemen face when they returned to the United States?
Harry S. Truman, Executive Order 9981	July 26, 1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is this executive order different from order 8802? What do you think would be the short-term impact of this executive order? What would be the long-term impacts?
Photograph, With the din of battle only a half mile away, these Korean War soldiers pause to receive communion during mass	1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the military change from World War II to the Korean War? What were the impacts of Executive Order 9981?
Photograph, Wounded men receive treatment on a train enroute to hospitals	1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the military change from World War II to the Korean War? What were the impacts of Executive Order 9981?

Timeline Worksheet Teacher Guide cont.

Introduction to the Montford Point Marines

African Americans have served in every conflict in U.S. history. African Americans who served in World War II were limited to support roles in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. Job opportunities were limited, largely to tasks that involved manual labor.

In response to demands led by A. Philip Randolph, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 on June 25, 1941. This order banned discrimination against African Americans and other minorities in any workplace receiving government contracts. As a result of this order, all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces were required to recruit and train African Americans.

Black men who enlisted in the Marines received their basic training at a segregated facility at Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Conditions were rough, and recruits faced discrimination both on and off duty. From 1942 to 1949, more than 20,000 black recruits trained at Montford Point and then served in World War II or the Korean War. The July 26, 1948 Executive Order 9981, signed by President Harry Truman, desegregated the military and segregated units were phased out.

In 2012, Montford Point Marines who served from 1942 to 1949 were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.