

Name _____

Number _____



George Jordan, 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier



Text Dependent Questions

Directions: Please refer to the passage about George Jordan to answer the questions below. Please respond in complete sentences.

1. Reread the 1st paragraph and list 4 reasons African American males joined the army after the Civil War.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2. Explain who gave the Buffalo Soldiers their name and how they earned it.

3. Who was George Jordan? _____

4. During his early years as a buffalo soldier, what ranks did he earn? (Paragraph 2)

5. Describe what Sergeant Jordan did to earn a Medal of Honor. _____

6. Explain the discrimination Sergeant Jordan experienced after he retired from being a buffalo soldier. _____

7. Based upon what you have read, explain why George Jordan was an important contributor during the era of the buffalo soldiers. Use examples from the text to support your answer. _____

George Jordan, 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldier

After the Civil War, many African American men joined the U.S. army. Congress had decided to establish six all-black regiments which would consist of about 1000 soldiers. The army offered soldiers food, shelter, and a meager \$13 a month for their service. For many emancipated African Americans this was an honorable job which offered less racial struggles than civilian life presented for these men. Each of these regiments were still commanded by white soldiers. These regiments were given the task or job of helping rebuild the country after the Civil War and to patrol the unexplored land west of the Mississippi. In addition, these soldiers were also responsible for keeping order in frontier towns, arresting rustlers, men who would steal livestock, protecting citizens who traveled the west by stagecoach, and for building forts and roads throughout the western frontier. These soldiers were nicknamed "The Buffalo Soldiers" by the Cheyenne. It seems that the Cheyenne thought the hair of the soldiers resembled the curly fur between the horns of the buffalo. Because the buffalo were highly respected by the Plains Indians, the soldiers felt this nickname was a high form of praise and respect.

George Jordan was a Tennessean who joined the 9th Cavalry in 1870.



The 9th Cavalry was one of Congresses all black regiments. Jordan excelled within his regiment. He learned to read and write during his time in the army. He was also

promoted to corporal in 1874 and again to sergeant in 1879.

During his service, Jordan led a group of 25 men near Fort Tularosa, New Mexico in 1880. The men had traveled all night to arrive at the Fort. Upon their arrival, they were attacked by more than 100 Apaches. George and his regiment of 25 men stopped the attack! In another impressive victory, Sergeant George Jordan and a small group of 19 buffalo soldiers held back the Apache in Carrizo Canyon, New Mexico. The Apaches attempted to surround the cavalry, but were



unable to move the buffalo soldiers. The Apache soon retreated after suffering several wounded and dead. Sergeant George Jordan was credited with yet another triumphant win! His bravery did not go unnoticed. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courageousness at Fort Tularosa. He was also given a Certificate of Merit for his valor, heroism, at Carrizo Canyon.

After a successful military career, Jordan retired and moved to Crawford, Nebraska to live in a community with other buffalo soldiers. He bought land and built a home for himself. In spite of his successful military career, Jordan still faced discrimination because of his race. His request to vote was denied numerous times. In 1904, he was faced with yet another act of discrimination when he was denied treatment at the local hospital. As a result of this denial, he passed away on October 19, 1904. George Jordan was given a full military funeral service. He was buried in Fort Robinson cemetery. The accomplishments of Sergeant George Jordan made the title of "buffalo soldiers" given to him and his comrades the perfect title for this group of young men. They exhibited a fierce fighting spirit and bravery that afforded them many successes in their military careers. George Jordan, buffalo soldier, is a Tennessean who truly made his mark in history.

