

Black Trailblazers Student Worksheet

Name: _____ Period# _____ Date: _____

THINK-Discussion: First answer each of the following questions on your own then be prepared to share your answers with the class.

- Do you know of any Black trailblazers in the Oregon territory?
- Why do you think we have learned very little about the earliest Black residents of Oregon?
- What hardships do you think Black trailblazers faced in the Oregon Territory?
- Where do you think Black trailblazers, new to the Oregon Territory, came from?

KNOW-Read the article from BlackPast titled “THE BLACK LAWS OF OREGON, 1844-1857.” This article is vital to understanding the people described in the documents.

In the space below summarize the article The Black Laws of Oregon into a 4-5 sentence paragraph.

LEARN-Answer the following questions about each of the seven documents on the people who explored and resided in the Oregon Territory before Oregon became a state in 1859.



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Document A.

1. What does Markus Lopeus' 1788 arrival tell us about how some African/African Americans first encountered the Oregon Territory?
2. We know Lopeus came from the continent of Africa; why are his roots important to note? Especially as it relates to early Oregon history.

Document B.

1. York was given the right to vote during the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805, however, African American men would not be permitted to vote until 1870. With that information, what does it tell you about the significance of York during the expedition?
2. Monuments are created to honor the contributions of a person or event. Why is it important to honor York?

Document C.

1. What does the epitaph about Harris's tell you about the life he lived in the West?
2. Moses Harris is a well known fur trapper however little is also known about his personal life. Why do you think he chose to not document these details?

Document D.

1. Why is George Washington Bush's choice to head further north, after living along the Columbia River significant to understanding African Americans in Oregon?
2. In 1846 Bush was forced to make a decision to stay in Oregon Territory and potentially face the consequences or leave to settle in a different part of the country. Why do you think Bush chooses to stay?

Document E.

1. According to the text, when did Rachel Belden come to the Oregon Territory? What was her role when she entered Oregon Territory and who was she with?
2. Why does Belden sue Delaney and his estate? Who wins the trial? Why is this case significant as it pertains to Oregon in the 1860's?

Document F.

1. Summarize Vanderpools early life, before coming to Oregon.
2. Why is it important to note with Vanderpools case that Chief Justice Thomas Nelson stayed at Theophilus Magruder's hotel?
3. In 1851 Vanderpool became the first and only African American removed from the Oregon Territory. What makes his case unique from cases similar to his that followed in the years after?

Document G.

1. What are the 128 signees asking the Oregon government to do in 1854? For what reasons do the signer's appreciate Thomas?
2. Hypothesize the outcome of this petition. Explain your answer.

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Homework/Honors Credit

Learn more about Oregon's Black explorers and trailblazers by researching one of them. Follow the links below to select an individual, then write a one page summary about the person's life and why they are significant to Oregon history.

Explorers

- Markus Lopeus
<https://tinyurl.com/2t9bttidy>
- York
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/york/>
- Moses Harris
<http://gregnokes.com/2017/04/03/black-harris-northwest-mountain-man-of-mystery/>
- Jacob Dodson
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/dodson-jacob-1825/>

Trailblazers

Visit the *Black in Oregon 1840-1870* online exhibit from the Oregon Secretary of State's office.

<https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/black-history/Pages/default.aspx>

Select "Black Individuals and Families in Oregon" and choose one of the following to research:

- George Washington Bush
- George Washington
- Rachel Belden Brooks
- Robin and Polly Holmes
- Allen Ervin Flowers
- Abner Hunt "A. H." Francis
- Ellender "Nellie" Mathews
- Letitia Carson

