

Table of Contents

The 54 th Massachusetts Regiment—The Shaw Memorial	5
The 54 th Massachusetts Regiment—The Shaw Memorial Questions	6
The Emancipation Proclamation	7
The Emancipation Proclamation Questions	10
“Men of Color, To Arms!”	11
“Men of Color, To Arms!” Questions	15
Frederick Douglass Biography	16
Frederick Douglass Biography Questions.....	17
The 54 th Massachusetts Regiment	18
The 54 th Massachusetts Regiment Questions	19
Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Biography	20
Colonel Robert Gould Shaw Biography Questions	21
The Battle of Fort Wagner.....	22
The Battle of Fort Wagner Questions	23
Internet Research Ideas	24
Multiple Intelligence Activities.....	28
Answer Key.....	31

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment

The Shaw Memorial

Joshua B. Smith, a runaway slave from North Carolina, established a fund in 1865 for the purpose of creating a monument to the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. Smith had been employed by the Shaws whose son, Robert Gould Shaw, was colonel of the regiment honored by the monument.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens was chosen to create the monument. During the 1880s and 1890s, he was the most famous sculptor in the United States. He created works to honor General Sherman and Admiral Farragut, also of Civil War fame.

Saint-Gaudens wanted to make a statue of Shaw on a horse, but the dead hero's family objected because such a memorial was too grand for an ordinary man. Another objection was that Shaw had commanded infantrymen, not cavalry, and that his charge at Fort Wagner had been on foot, not horseback.

What Saint-Gaudens finally created was a bronze sculpture 15 feet high, 18 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The style of the memorial is a bas-relief: the figures of Shaw and his men stand out from a flat

background but are attached to it. Shaw is shown on horseback in the foreground, while his soldiers march at his side. What is remarkable about the memorial is that the faces of the African Americans shown with Shaw are highly detailed and individualistic, not just stereotypes. The names of the 62 men who died at Fort Wagner are listed on the bottom of the memorial.

The monument was dedicated on May 31, 1897, on the Common in Boston, Massachusetts. Surviving members of the African American 54th and 55th Infantry Regiments and the 5th Cavalry were present. Sergeant Carney, who had won the Congressional Medal of Honor at Fort Wagner, was honored. Booker T. Washington was one of the speakers. Washington was the head of the African American Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama and one of the best-known African American educators in the United States.

The *Washington Post* described the memorial in 1997 as, "a sort of sculpted hymn to sacrificial courage and interracial decency."



Name _____

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment

The Shaw Memorial Questions

1. What is a bas-relief sculpture? _____

2. Why didn't Shaw's family want a statue of their son on a horse? _____

3. Thought Question: Why do you suppose Joshua B. Smith started the fund to build the memorial?

4. Thought Question: Why did it take from 1865 to 1897 to establish the fund for the memorial and finally get it built? _____

5. Thought Question: In what sense was it an honor to have the memorial created by Augustus Saint-Gaudens? _____

6. Thought Question: Why were other African American battle units in addition to the 54th Massachusetts Regiment at the dedication of the memorial? _____

7. Project: Draw a memorial of your own design to honor the 54th and Shaw.



The Emancipation Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America: A Proclamation

Whereas, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

“That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, and the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the free United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

“That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated, shall in the absence of strong countervailing testimony be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States.”

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion against the

On September 22, 1862, the President made a statement about the subject in the next paragraph.

On January 1, 1863, all slaves shall now and forever be free in the states or parts of states where people are still rebelling against the United States (still fighting against the Union). The Executive branch of the U.S. government (headed by the President), including the army and navy, will agree that the slaves are free and will help them stay free. The army and the navy will not do anything to stop the slaves from gaining their freedom. (For instance, the army will not stop slaves from running away from their masters.)

On January 1, 1863, the President will name the states and parts of states that are still rebelling against the U.S. (if the war is not over yet). The way to tell if a state is not rebelling is that it has senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress that were legally elected by the majority of the qualified voters of the state. Unless there is strong evidence otherwise, having members in the U.S. Congress will prove that the state is not rebelling against the U.S.

I, President Abraham Lincoln, will do what I said I would do 100 days ago and will name the states and parts of states that are in rebellion against the U.S. I do this through my power as commander-in-chief of the United States military during a time of armed rebellion against its government. It is legal and necessary to do this as a way of ending the war.