

A True Story of the American Revolution

The Black Regiment of the American Revolution

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Interest level: grades 5 and above

A true story of African American soldiers who fought for America's freedom and for their own.

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Newport, Rhode Island, was strategically important to the British. It was one of the best harbors and largest ports in the colonies. It was close to Boston, and a fleet stationed there could control shipping bound for Connecticut and New York. (As shown on the map, some political borders were not well defined at this time.)

Barton, on the mainland north of Newport. Over 10,000 men answered the call. Militia streamed in from all over Rhode Island and the other New England states. Most of the militiamen were farmers who left their fields in the middle of harvest. They were called up for one month's service as soldiers, to fight this particular battle. General Sullivan described the militiamen as a "motley and disarranged Chaos" that he had to whip into order. The newly formed Black Regiment joined the other regiments and militias gathering at Fort Barton.



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