



Korea - The Unfinished War

Critical Thinking

Part 1: The following questions are based on “Oral History Archive: Interview with Curtis Morrow.”

Discussion questions:

1. How did Curtis Morrow feel about being assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment?
2. Why did Mr. Morrow volunteer? How old was he?
3. Why did Mr. Morrow leave the base only once during basic training at Fort Riley?
4. What was Mr. Morrow’s first impression of Korea?
5. What were some of the hardships the soldiers faced fighting in Korea?
6. Describe Morrow’s reaction to white soldiers. What was the common bond between the black and white soldiers?

Opposing viewpoints:

To explore the issues raised in the article, conduct an informal debate in response to the following statement by dividing the students into supporters and opponents.

STATEMENT: Although the military resisted integration, a diverse fighting force made the U.S. army stronger during the Korean War.

Part 2: The following questions are based on the article/interview “Oral History Archive: Interview with Bill Peterson.”

Discussion questions:

1. How did William Peterson react to his encounter with the officer from Macon, Georgia, named Tammy J. Bowden?
2. Where did most of the prejudice toward black soldiers come from?
3. How does Peterson feel about his lengthy career in the military? Was he treated fairly?
4. How did most young people of his generation feel about the military?
5. In what ways did the military help lead the civil rights movement?
6. What happened to many officers who disagreed with the executive order to integrate the armed services?

Opposing viewpoints:

To explore the issues raised in the article, conduct an informal debate in response to the following statement by dividing the students into supporters and opponents.

STATEMENT: The military was well chosen as a sector of U.S. society in which to begin integration.