

Reading Activity: "How Black Smokejumpers Helped Save The American West"

Link: <https://www.npr.org/sections/npr-history-dept/2015/01/22/376973981/how-black-smokejumpers-helped-save-the-american-west>

1. **Pre-Reading:** One quote about smokejumpers is, "Smokejumpers spend their careers going to the wrong place at the wrong time," explain what you think this might mean, use the pictures on the link for clues:

I think wrong place means _____ _____ _____	I think wrong time means _____ _____ _____
because _____ _____ _____	because _____ _____ _____
The pictures shows me this by ____ _____ _____	The pictures shows me this by ____ _____ _____

3. **Connect the Text:** Summarize four specific ideas from the text that discuss how African-American smokejumpers were mistreated:

Summary #1 _____ _____ _____	<p>"That hurt the living blazes out of us... Why should we be treated as second-class citizens..."</p> <p>-Bradley Biggs</p>	Summary #2 _____ _____ _____
Summary #3 _____ _____ _____		Summary #4 _____ _____ _____

5. **Inquiry:** After reading and reviewing the article, create five level 2 or level 3 divergent questions that can lead to gaining further knowledge inspired by the contents of the source (1 point per question)

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2. **Vocabulary:** Using your knowledge, the article, or approved research techniques, select the matching definitions and/or synonyms for each vocabulary term:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Havoc (n.) | a. Take a part, pull into pieces, demolish |
| 2. _____ Dismantling (v.) | b. To separate, isolate, or keep apart |
| 3. _____ Pioneers (n.) | c. Fire-starting, flammable, combustible |
| 4. _____ Segregated (v.) | d. Chaos, mayhem, devastation |
| 5. _____ Incendiary (adj.) | e. The first people to do something |

4. **Multiple Choice:** Select the best possible answer from the options provided:

- Which of the following WAS NOT a reason that the US government discouraged the reporting of "balloon bombs" to the American public?
 - They were mostly silent
 - They could have won the war
 - They were intercontinental
 - They caused forest fires
- What geographic area of the United States did the Triple Nickles mostly serve?
 - Southwest
 - Northeast
 - Northwest
 - Midwest
- The text says the Triple Nickles were an "integral part" of dealing with balloon bombs, what do you think integral means?
 - Essential
 - Unnecessary
 - Uninvited
 - Mistreated
- What best summarizes, "But the memories and stories are still standing."
 - History and buildings are connected
 - Stories build history
 - Forgetting history is impossible with buildings
 - History is rarely forgotten
- What do you think is the author's main purpose for writing this article?
 - To explain that despite not going to fight, the Triple Nickles helped win the war.
 - To tell the story of the Triple Nickles through the eyes of a few of the members.
 - To persuade the reader that the Triple Nickles should never be forgotten.
 - To remind the reader that forest fires are a threat to our society.

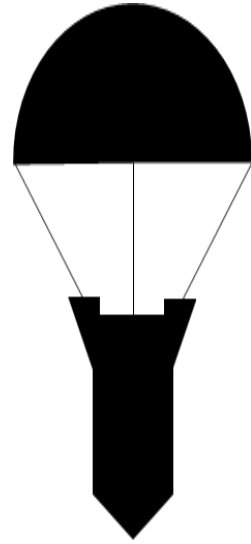
6. **Evidence support:** Look at the choice you made for Multiple Choice Question #5, identify lines from the text that support your answer and provide explanations and connections to make your logic clear:

Line From Text	Explanation & Connection
<i>Any line from the text, put in quotations to indicate the words are not yours</i>	<i>Explain what the line means and make a clear connection to your choice above.</i>
“ _____ _____ _____ ”	_____ _____ _____
“ _____ _____ _____ ”	_____ _____ _____

7. **Tools of Speech:** The article states several reasons that the Japanese used “balloon bombs” to attack the continental United States during World War II. Summarize (explain using your own words) two of these reasons.

First, the Japanese used “balloon bombs” to attack the US because _____

Also, the Japanese used “balloon bombs” to attack the US because _____



9. **Counterclaims:** Reread your answer to #8, if a person were to argue against your point, which word do you think they would choose as the best counter argument; remember, it is okay for you to choose a word not provided: Courageous, Proud, Pioneering, or something else?

Although some people may think _____ is the best word as stated in #8, the best word to describe the Triple Nickles is actually _____ because _____

_____. One example from the text that supports this is _____

The author alludes to this when he/she says, “_____”

11. **Inquiry:** The two deadliest tragedies involving smokejumpers were the Mann Gulch Fire (1949) and the South Canyon Fire (1994), choose one, write it in the “What” Box and then research it. Show what you know by filling out the “5W” below:

Who: Smokejumpers	What:
When:	Where:
Why: 1. One of the deadliest tragedies involving smokejumpers, killing _____.	
2. _____	
3. _____	

8. **Critical Thinking:** The article mentions three words that the Triple Nickles felt or have been described as feeling as a result of their service during World War II, which word do you think best describes the way they felt: Courageous, Proud, Pioneering, or something else.

_____ is the best word to describe the Triple Nickles because _____

One example from the text that supports this is _____

The author alludes to this when he/she says, “_____”

10. **Conclusion:** What is the best conclusion you can draw from what the article presents, check the one you think is best and explain why:

- The Triple Nickles did much to advance firefighting techniques.
- The Triple Nickles helped win the war even though they didn’t fight.
- Black and white Americans worked as smokejumpers during the war.
- “Balloon bombs” proved a Japanese-urgency to win World War II.

The reason I chose the one I did is because _____

The text supports this by saying, “_____” One other example not in the text is _____

12. Inquiry and Synthesis: Choose your best divergent question from #5, write a feasible answer to that question, ask your teacher if you can use an electronic device to help. If you don’t have a question, ask a peer for one.

Question: _____?

Possible Answer: _____