



Paul Cuffe

Daring Seafarer and Early Abolitionist

Overview:

Paul Cuffe was a mixed-race man from New England who led an amazing life during the early years of the American Republic. This lesson will expose students to a little-known story of adventure that will broaden their understanding of the varied experiences of persons of color during and after America's founding.

Lesson Prompt:

What do you think it was like living as a mixed-race individual during the Revolutionary War era?

What sorts of jobs and activities do you think you might be doing?

Share the prepared PowerPoint slide deck with students. There are accompanying multiple choice and discussion questions to measure basic comprehension and prompt deeper thinking.

This lesson includes additional suggested assignments, as well as brief (but challenging, due to archaic language) reading assignments written by Paul Cuffe himself, with accompanying comprehension questions.

Short, school-appropriate video selections and additional reading are also suggested.

Vocabulary:

Mariner, Renowned, Advocate, Solidarity, Anglicized, Seafaring, Scrounging, Illicit, Extract, Colonization, Interred, Brig, Abundant, Prejudice, Repatriate, Swindler, Diaspora, Align, Indigenous, Nadir

Recommended Resources:

WEBSITES

[Paul Cuffe Heritage Trail](#)

[National Archives \(Correspondence with James Madison\)](#)

[Paul Cuffe Personal and Family Papers \(Westport Historical Society\)](#)

ARTICLES

["Will the real Paul Cuffe please stand up?"](#)

[Memoir of Captain Paul Cuffee, A Man of Colour](#)

["Who Led the first Back-to-Africa Movement?" \(Henry Louis Gates, Jr.\)](#)