

Paul Cuffe: Critical Thinking & Discussion Questions

Grades K-2

Why did Paul Cuffe believe that colonists of African descent should not pay taxes? If you were in charge of this law, would you agree with him?

Give reasons why people might start a family business. What kind of business would you start with your siblings or cousins?

Since planes were not invented, people in the past had to travel on ships. What do you think that was like?

Paul Cuffe tried to help people have a better life. What are ideas that you have to help people have a better life?

Cuffe helped people even if he disagreed with them. How do you get along with children that do things differently than you do?

Why did Cuffe have a good reputation? What can you do to develop a good reputation among all people?

Grades 3-5

What is your favorite part of Paul Cuffe's life? What about his life inspires you?

How did he become successful as a businessman, despite the fact that slavery was still legal in the colonies?

Cuffe's father died when he was 12. What was it like for him to be responsible and manage his family's large farm? What are some advantages that most young people had in the 17th and 18th centuries that no longer exist today? (Consider lifestyle, agency, competence, and other Woodson principles etc.)

How can you be a contributor to your family and not just a consumer? (Positive attitude, saving money, helping around the house, etc.) How can you serve your community?

Why did Cuffe believe that Christianity, entrepreneurship, and morality were important values to export to the new African colonies?

Cuffe and the American Colonization Society wanted to help Africa for different reasons. How do we support people who think differently about an issue? How do you get along with children that do things differently than you do?

Share an experience where you and a friend, classmate or sibling had a goal or project, but disagreed with how to reach the goal or complete the project?

Grades 6-8

Cuffe's father died when he was 12. What was it like for him to be responsible and manage his family's large farm? What are some advantages that most young people had in the 17th and 18th centuries that no longer exist today? (Consider lifestyle, agency, competence, and other Woodson principles etc.)

How can you be a contributor to your family and not just a consumer? (Positive attitude, saving money, helping around the house, etc.) How can you serve your community?

Why did Cuffe believe that Christianity, entrepreneurship, and morality were important values to export to the new African colonies?

What ethnic groups are in your community? Why did some people support the "Back to Africa" movement in the early years of the American Republic? Why did some people oppose it? Name a foreign country that you would move to if you could.

Cuffe and the American Colonization Society wanted to help Africa for different reasons. How can we, like Cuffe, support people or organizations even if we hold a different ideology or have a different goal? How should people decide who to work with to reach a goal?