Civil War Recruiting Poster (2)
A primary source by the Union Army

This poster is provided courtesy of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

This recruiting poster of 1863 uses images of the past (deliverance from slavery) and the future (education and civil rights) to inspire African Americans to enlist and fight for the Union. By the end of the war, some 200,000 African Americans—like those seen going into battle at upper right—had served the Union forces.
Name: ________________________________ Date: ____________________________

1. In the poster, what does the banner attached to the American flag read?
   A) Deliverance from Slavery
   B) Public School
   C) Freedom to the Slave
   D) Fight for the Union

2. What does the author describe in the text?
   A) the story of the Civil War battle depicted in the poster
   B) how the poster tried to inspire African Americans to enlist
   C) the history of how African Americans were freed from slavery
   D) the number of people who died fighting during the Civil War

3. The Union played a big part in freeing African Americans from slavery. What evidence in the poster supports this conclusion?
   A) the American flag atop the public schoolhouse
   B) the banner attached to the flag held by the Union soldier
   C) the men going into battle in the upper right
   D) the uniforms the Union soldiers are wearing

4. Based on the evidence in the text and poster, why might African Americans want to fight for the Union army?
   A) to avoid fighting against them
   B) to avoid going to school
   C) to attain civil rights and education
   D) to escape danger and death

5. What is the message of this poster?
   A) African Americans should fight for the Union army because the Union supports their rights.
   B) It is too late for African Americans to join the Union army.
   C) The Civil War is destroying the country’s public school system.
   D) The Civil War will soon come to an end.

6. Read this sentence from the text:
   "By the end of the war, some 200,000 African Americans ... had served the Union forces."

   Why might the author have included this fact about 200,000 African Americans having served the Union forces?
   A) to illustrate that the poster was not a useful recruiting tool
   B) to demonstrate the impact this poster, and other posters like it, had on the war
   C) to show how recruiting posters were used against the Union forces
   D) to explain how the Union forces won the war
7. The poster uses images of the future to inspire African Americans to enlist in the Union army. ________, African Americans are shown entering a public schoolhouse.
   A) However
   B) On the contrary
   C) Otherwise
   D) For example

8. What kinds of images does the poster use to inspire African Americans to enlist?

9. Identify an image in the poster that might be considered an image of the future.

10. Why might this poster inspire African Americans to enlist in the Union army? Support your answer with evidence from the text.