World War I Recruiting Poster for African American Soldiers, 1918
A primary source by the United States Armed Forces

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

In this poster, “Colored Man Is No Slacker,” against a background of African American patriotism, self-sacrifice, and courage, a black soldier takes his leave.
Name: __________________________ Date: ______________________

1. According to the poster, who is "no slacker"?
   A) colored man
   B) World War I soldier
   C) African American soldier
   D) American citizen

2. What does the text describe?
   A) the techniques used by an artist to create the poster
   B) the time period in which the poster was created
   C) the way African Americans in 1918 reacted to the poster
   D) the scene and themes depicted in the poster

3. The poster shows African American patriotism. What evidence from the poster supports this conclusion?
   A) the blue color of the woman’s dress
   B) the flowers surrounding the couple in the foreground
   C) the American flag held by an African American soldier
   D) the trees behind the marching soldiers

4. What is the purpose of this poster?
   A) to describe the duties required of soldiers serving in World War I
   B) to convince African American men to become soldiers and join the United States Army
   C) to make people appreciate the beauty and comfort of their homes and families
   D) to convince members of the United States government that African American men should be part of the army

5. What is a theme of the poster?
   A) It can be exciting to try something new.
   B) It is important to serve your country.
   C) The future can be scary when it is uncertain.
   D) It is important to help people who are weaker than you are.

6. Why might the artist have included the words "Colored Man Is No Slacker" in this recruitment poster?
   A) to cause African American viewers to feel a strong sense of duty, hard work, and self-sacrifice
   B) to suggest that African American women are less hardworking and patriotic than African American men
   C) to convince African American men that they are more hardworking and strong than other people
   D) to convince all American viewers that African American men would make the best soldiers
7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

__________ African American soldiers march to war in the background, the man in the foreground takes his leave.

A) Although
B) Because
C) However
D) While

8. According to the text, what are three ideas that are illustrated in the background of the poster?

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9. Self-sacrifice is the act of giving up your own interests or desires out of a sense of duty. How is the man in the center of the poster showing self-sacrifice?
Support your answer with evidence from the poster.

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10. How might this poster have persuaded African American men to fight in the war?
Support your answer with evidence from the text and poster.

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