Discussion Handout

How has the African American community in particular contributed to making the United States of America stronger and more equal?

Stronger	• Learned to read →against the law but many learned anyway • Saturday evening dances • Prayer meetings • Sang together, Songs with hidden messages
More Equal	• Developed the Underground Railroad • Fought for freedom in wars → Revolutionary War, Civil War, hoping for their own freedom • Abolitionists worked to end slavery→ free Black, formerly enslaved, and some white people worked together • Frederick Douglass: wrote to spread message

Big Idea:

African Americans helped build a stronger, more equal nation by constantly fighting for freedom, maintaining hope, and advocating for equality.

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