

Discussion Handout

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

Stronger	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learned to read → against the law but many learned anyway- Saturday evening dances- Prayer meetings- Sang together, Songs with hidden messages
More Equal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.