

Discussion Question Answers

The Tuskegee Weathermen: African-American Meteorologists during World War II

- 1. What were the duties of the Tuskegee Weather Detachment? How did they work together with the Tuskegee Airmen?**
 - They briefed their unit on target and on-route weather
 - They collected data about weather conditions and used that to produce weather maps and predict future weather.
- 2. How were men selected to be part of the Tuskegee Weather Detachment?**
 - They were selected from top black colleges.
 - They passed tests of mathematical and intellectual ability, in addition to leadership tests.
- 3. Why is the Tuskegee Weather Detachment significant?**
 - John Blanche, a Tuskegee weatherman, was ranked in the top 100 (of over 2,000) meteorologists during the war.
 - They were the first African Americans trained as meteorologists.
- 4. What does a meteorologist do? How did the field of meteorology change after World War II?**
 - A meteorologist uses measurements of atmospheric conditions (the current weather) to make predictions about what the weather will be like in the near future.
 - They also make models to understand what is happening within different weather patterns.