Lesson 4: African-Americans in the Civil War

“Glory” Questions

1. We know that Antietam was the bloodiest day in American history. Describe the aftermath of this battle based on what Shaw saw and felt.

2. Describe the scene at the party in the Governor’s office. What famous American is there? What happens to Shaw during this scene?

3. Describe the variety of background of the new African-American soldiers that meet in the tent.

4. At one point, Shaw addresses the soldiers and announces a piece of legislation of the Confederate Congress. What does this legislation say can happen to the African-American soldiers and their white officers if they are caught by Confederate soldiers?

5. Why do you think Shaw’s friend (who is also an officer) protests against the use of the whip for punishing the alleged deserter (Denzel Washington)? Common punishment for desertion (leaving the military camp) was to be flogged, or hit, but not necessarily with a whip. What is it about the whip that is particularly bothersome.

6. Why do you think Col. Shaw decides to tear up his paycheck like the soldiers were doing?

7. Why do the troops burn the small South Carolina town? Is this allowed in war?
8. Why do you think Col. Shaw asked that his regiment be the one to lead the assault on Ft. Wagner?

9. What did the soldiers do the night before the battle?

10. Did the Massachusetts 54th Regiment eventually earn the respect of the other Union soldiers and officers? Think about the scene as they march toward Ft. Wagner.

11. What was your favorite scene of the movie and WHY?

For analysis of Emancipation Proclamation, use the worksheet provided by the National Archives: