

Name: _____

Matthew A. Henson: Cloze Activity

Fill in the blanks to solve this cloze activity.

| Word Bank | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| African-American | America | City | Congressional |
| Eskimos | expeditions | explorer | mechanic |
| North Pole | Peary's | people | published |
| retired | ship | Taft | |

Matthew Alexander Henson (Aug. 8, 1866 - March 9, 1955) was an _____ explorer and one of the first _____ to visit the North Pole. He was on most of Robert E. _____ expeditions, including the 1909 trip to the _____.

Henson's parents died when he was a young boy. He went to sea when he was 12 years old, working as a cabin boy on a three-masted sailing _____. He later became a clerk in Washington, D.C., where he met the Arctic _____ Robert E. Peary; in 1888, Peary hired Henson as a personal assistant for his expedition to Nicaragua, Central _____. Because of Henson's skills (Henson was an accomplished _____, navigator and carpenter), resourcefulness and strength, Peary chose Henson to accompany him on his next 7 _____ to the Arctic, from 1891 through 1909. Peary, Henson, and four _____ were the first people to reach the North Pole (in 1909).

Henson wrote "A Negro Explorer at the North Pole," which was _____ in 1912. US President William H. _____ appointed Henson a clerk in the U.S. Customs House in New York _____ in 1913; he held the post until 1936, when he _____. Henson was awarded a _____ medal in 1944 for his work on the Peary expedition.

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