

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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