Photo Analysis: "Private Gordon"

Look at the photograph "Private Gordon" and discuss the following questions:



What is the most striking or powerful part of this photograph? How do you think Private Gordon got the scars on his back? How does this photo make you feel? Why might someone take this photograph? http://archive.li/36gO3

"Photography Changes the Way We Record and Respond to Social Issues"

by Frank H. Goodyear, III

As you read the article answer the following questions:

According to the author, list several roles that photography played in the Civil War?

How did Mr. Gordon receive the scars on his back? How did Gordon escape the slave catchers?

Why do you think that Mr. Gordon decided to enlist in the Union Army?

Why did photographers ask Gordon to pose for the photo? What were their motives?

Why did photographers like Mathew Brady make thousands of copies of this photo?

Which political movement used this photo for its cause?

What did Gordon's own role in the Union Army demonstrate about African-Americans during the Civil War?