

# Tuskegee Airmen

The Tuskegee Airmen were a black group in the Air Force founded in 1941 in Tuskegee, Alabama. The group was founded when the military was segregated and blacks were not allowed to fly. However, the Tuskegee Airmen proved them wrong by working hard. During their time in WWII, 996 Tuskegee were trained, only 66 were killed, and not a *single* bomber plane that they were protecting was shot down. They did this by using the Six Guiding Principles (Aim High, Believe in Yourself, Use Your Brain, Be Ready to Go, Never Quit, and Expect To Win). Here's how the Tuskegee Airmen used them and how I can.

The Tuskegee Airmen had to **Aim High** to become pilots. They had moved to Tuskegee, Alabama, learned at the Tuskegee Institute, and flew dangerous missions over Europe, all while fighting racial prejudice. My goal is to become a paleontologist and I have to aim high by setting this as my goal and working towards it. The Tuskegee Airmen **Believed in Themselves**. They had to do their jobs while being constantly told that they couldn't do it. I have to believe in myself because if I just look at college, work and taxes and say, "Nope. Looks too hard," I'll end up selling oranges on the side of the highway. The Tuskegee Airmen **Used their Brains**. When they were flying over Germany or Italy and saw a German plane, they didn't scream, "Plane, Attack!" and do nothing. They would get into the turret, and fire at the plane, and protect the bomber. I can use my brain and do good in school so I can get into a good college and eventually become a paleontologist.

The Tuskegee Airmen were **Ready to Go**. If the Germans were bombing an air base, they weren't going to stop because somebody was taking a pleasant nap. In fact, they were probably going to drop bombs on the air base and interrupt that pleasant nap. The only way those Germans were leaving was if somebody was in their plane raining fire on their bombers. I can be ready to go by paying attention in school and doing well on my tests so I can get a good grade. The Tuskegee Airmen **Never Quit**. The Tuskegee Airmen went on a total of 1,800 missions from 1941 to 1945. Even with 996 men, 1,800 missions had to be pretty tough for the average guy. However, they never quit, and they became American heroes. I can never quit by always doing school even if it's hard. The Tuskegee Airmen **Expected to Win**. If a Tuskegee Airman saw that the enemy was approaching their group they wouldn't freak out and fly their plane into the opposite direction. They would say, "Hey, we out-number this guy 14 to one. Let's get 'em!" I can expect to win by not getting a low grade on a test and not giving up on becoming a paleontologist. I can realize that one low grade is not going to affect the outcome of my life. Using these six principles, the Tuskegee Airmen accomplished their goals, and if I use them, I can accomplish my goals too.