"Buffalo Soldier," written by Noel Williams and Bob Marley

Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta:
There was a Buffalo Soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

I mean it, when I analyze the stench To me it makes a lot of sense:
How the Dreadlock Rasta was the Buffalo Soldier,
And he was taken from Africa, brought to America,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival.

Said he was a Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta Buffalo Soldier in the heart of America.

If you know your history,
Then you would know where you coming from,
Then you wouldn't have to ask me,
Who the 'eck do I think I am.

I'm just a Buffalo Soldier in the heart of America,
Stolen from Africa, brought to America,
Said he was fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Said he was a Buffalo Soldier win the war for America.

Dreadie, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Buffalo Soldier troddin' through the land, wo-ho-ooh!
Said he wanna ran, then you wanna hand,
Troddin' through the land, yea-hea, yea-ea.

Said he was a Buffalo Soldier win the war for America;
Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta,
Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival;
Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean.

Singing, woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Troddin' through San Juan in the arms of America;
Troddin' through Jamaica, a Buffalo Soldier Fighting on arrival, fighting for survival:
Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta.

Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy!
Woy yoy yoy, woy yoy-yoy yoy,
Woy yoy yoy yoy, yoy yoy-yoy yoy! [fadeout]

Buffalo Soldier lyrics © EMI Music Publishing

For these and other lyrics, visit http://bobmarley.com
Rastafarians and Buffalo Soldiers

Instructions: For part 1, use these two websites-Rastafari and Slavery, and Bob Marley, in that order - to answer the following questions. For part 2, you should re-watch the Buffalo Soldiers music video, look carefully at the lyrics, and will also need to reference your previous work on Buffalo Soldiers. Use a dictionary to look up any words you don’t know.

Part 1: Rastafari and Slavery and Bob Marley websites

1. For Rastafarians, where is the Promised Land?

2. In your own words, what is repatriation? (You can consult a dictionary if needed)

3. Christopher Hagelin is quoted as saying “Rastafari is a revolutionary cultural reaction to the colonialism, down-pression, slavery, and persistent poverty that has marked Jamaica’s past and present.”
   a. Explain what this means:
   b. While we may not have a religious movement like this in the United States, what is a social movement that is a “revolutionary cultural reaction” to negative aspects of American culture?

4. How are the founders of Rastafari tied to slavery?

5. Why do you think it is important for the followers of Rastafari that it “provides a religious context for black people separated from their roots?”

6. Explain Rastafari’s tie to Christianity (make sure you read the whole page before answering):

7. Explain how reggae music reflects Rastafarian themes:

8. Who was Marley’s Rastafarian teacher?
9. How did Marley’s marriage influence his music?

10. In your own words, describe how Jamaicans felt about Marley.

Part 2: Buffalo Soldiers music video

While watching the video, makes notes in each column. Be detailed- you may need to pause the video so you don’t miss anything.

| What do you see that represents Buffalo Soldiers? | What do you see that represents Rastafarians? |

1. Why do you think the video goes back and forth between the soldiers and images of Bob Marley and his band in the studio?

2. Look at the “Buffalo Soldiers” lyrics sheet. What aspect of the Buffalo Soldiers history is Marley emphasizing? Why do you think he did so?

3. Is this line referring to Buffalo Soldiers or Rastas? How do you know?
   
   “Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean”

4. Is the line “Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta” most like a simile or a metaphor? Why?
5. Finally, why do you think Marley chose to compare the Rastafarians to the Buffalo Soldiers? Use your knowledge of both groups to be specific in your answer.
Rastafarians and Buffalo Soldiers

Instructions: For part 1, use these two websites—Rastafari and Slavery, and Bob Marley, in that order—to answer the following questions. For part 2, you should re-watch the Buffalo Soldiers music video, look carefully at the lyrics sheet, and will also need to reference your previous work on Buffalo Soldiers. Use a dictionary to look up any words you don’t know.

Part 1: Rastafari and Slavery and Bob Marley websites

1. For Rastafarians, where is the Promised Land?
   Ethiopia

2. In your own words, what is repatriation? (You can consult a dictionary if needed)
   Return to your home country

3. Christopher Hagelin is quoted as saying “Rastafari is a revolutionary cultural reaction to the colonialism, down-pression, slavery, and persistent poverty that has marked Jamaica’s past and present.”

   a. Explain what this means:

      Rastafari was created in response to the repression of black Jamaicans

   b. While we may not have a religious movement like this in the United States, what is a social movement that is a “revolutionary cultural reaction” to negative aspects of American culture?

      Possible answers include: Civil Rights Movement, fight for women’s suffrage, current activism for gay rights, etc.

4. How are the founders of Rastafari tied to slavery?

   The founders are descendants of slaves, who were brought to Jamaica from Africa

5. Why do you think it is important for the followers of Rastafari that it “provides a religious context for black people separated from their roots?”

   Possible answer: the people felt a need to fill a spiritual lack they felt particularly due to their history of slavery and repression/this religion is specific to a particular group of people that all have this common experience

6. Explain Rastafari’s tie to Christianity (make sure you read the whole page before answering):
Answer Key

Rastafari is partially a response to Christianity, the slave-owners were Christian, and some of them did not want their slaves to be Christian as they thought it was for whites

7. Explain how reggae music reflects Rastafarian themes:

Slavery and oppression are common topics of reggae music

8. Who was Marley’s Rastafarian teacher?

Joe Higgs

9. How did Marley’s marriage influence his music?

His wife increased his interest in Rastafarian religion

10. In your own words, describe how Jamaicans felt about Marley.

(text says as a prophet and a poet) Possible answer: they loved him and felt he spoke for them

Part 2: Buffalo Soldiers music video

While watching the video, makes notes in each column. Be detailed- you may need to pause the video so you don’t miss anything.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you see that represents Buffalo Soldiers?</th>
<th>What do you see that represents Rastafarians?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Army uniforms</td>
<td>• Jamaican flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cannons and other old weapons</td>
<td>• Dreadlocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Black and white photo</td>
<td>• Clips of Marley and others in a music studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Army camp scences</td>
<td>• Black men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• “Volunteers wanted” sign, fades to a campfire</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Why do you think the video goes back and forth between the soldiers and images of Bob Marley and his band in the studio?

To make a connection between the soldiers and Bob Marley/Rastafarians

2. Look at the “Buffalo Soldiers” lyrics sheet. What aspect of the Buffalo Soldiers history is Marley emphasizing? Why do you think he did so?

   Their connection to slavery- the Rastafarians were also connected to slavery

3. Is this line referring to Buffalo Soldiers or Rastas? How do you know?

   “Driven from the mainland to the heart of the Caribbean”
Rastas- Jamaica is in the Caribbean

4. Is the line “Buffalo Soldier, Dreadlock Rasta” most like a simile or a metaphor? Why?
   Metaphor- does not use like or as

5. Finally, why do you think Marley chose to compare the Rastafarians to the Buffalo Soldiers?
   Use your knowledge or both groups to be specific in your answer.
   They shared a history of slavery, and of “fighting for survival.” The soldiers had to fight in
   wars but also against prejudice, the Rastas and black Jamaicans also had to fight against
   prejudice.