

Famous African Americans - George Washington Carver

by ReadWorks



George Washington Carver was a distinguished African-American scientist, inventor, and researcher. He is best known for the many uses he came up with for the peanut. George Washington Carver performed scientific experiments on peanuts and made many useful products from them, including dyes, shampoo, and soap.

George Washington Carver was born a slave during the Civil War. He never knew his parents. When he was very young, Carver was freed from slavery. He wanted to get an education. He decided to work at lots of jobs so he could afford school. He worked as a cook and a janitor. He even took in laundry, washing clothes to make money.

In 1894, Carver received a degree in agriculture from Iowa State University. He was very talented in his field. He became a professor at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, he was a leading expert in agriculture. He conducted lots of experiments. He also worked hard to improve race relations. Today, he is remembered as an important inventor and educator.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. George Washington Carver is most famous for working with

- A. cotton.
- B. peaches.
- C. peanuts.
- D. tobacco.

2. What did Carver do so he could afford to get an education?

- A. He invented peanut butter so he could sell it.
- B. He worked many jobs like cooking and laundry.
- C. He conducted scientific experiments.
- D. He became a professor at the Tuskegee Institute.

3. Based on the text, what can be concluded about what Carver thought about getting an education?

- A. Carver thought getting an education would have no impact on his life.
- B. Carver thought getting an education was going to be harmful to him.
- C. Carver thought getting an education was very important.
- D. Carver did not think getting an education was very important.

4. Read the sentences: "He became a professor at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, he was a leading expert in agriculture."

The word **leading** means

- A. very important
- B. starting to struggle
- C. as an assistant
- D. becoming forgotten

5. This passage is mostly about

- A. why peanuts were interesting to Carver
- B. Carver's life and accomplishments
- C. the different sciences that Carver studied
- D. Carver's different scientific experiments

6. Where did George Washington Carver become a professor?

7. Based on information in the text, describe George Washington Carver's character. Use information from the text to support your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Carver worked many jobs _____ he could afford to go to school

- A. since
- B. so
- C. though
- D. because