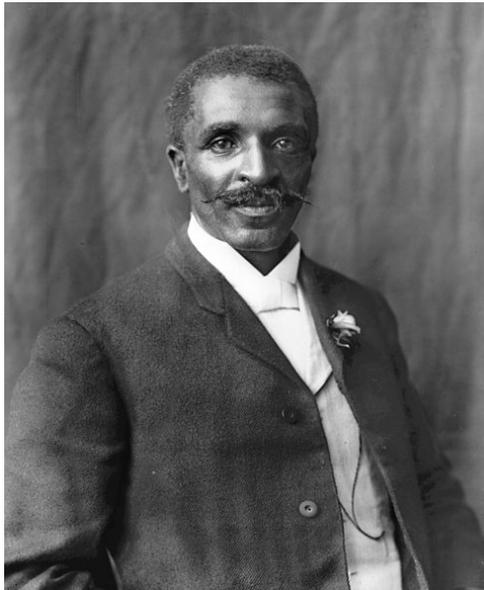


Famous African Americans George Washington Carver



Did you ever wonder who created peanut butter? It was George Washington Carver! Carver performed several scientific tests on peanuts and sweet potatoes. He even made dye out of clay. The more practical things he made were starch, bleach, sugar, instant coffee, soap, ink, and shaving cream.

George Washington Carver was born a slave during the Civil War. He never knew his parents. When he was a young man, Carver was freed from slavery. He wanted to get an education. He decided to work at lots of jobs so he could **afford**¹ school. He worked as a cook and a janitor. He even took in laundry.

In 1894, Carver received a degree in **agriculture**² from Iowa State University. He was very talented in his field. He became a professor at Tuskegee University in Alabama. There, he was a leading expert in agriculture. He conducted lots of experiments. He also worked hard to improve **race relations**.³

¹ **afford**: to be able to pay for

² **agriculture**: the science of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming

³ **race relations**: how people of different races get along

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. George Washington Carver is probably most famous for inventing
 - a. starch.
 - b. ink.
 - c. peanut butter.
 - d. shaving cream.

2. According to the passage, in paragraph 1, **practical** means
 - a. magical.
 - b. useful.
 - c. unimportant.
 - d. related to cooking.

3. After Carver was freed from slavery, his most important goal was
 - a. inventing peanut butter.
 - b. becoming a teacher.
 - c. improving race relations.
 - d. getting an education.

4. Which of the following would most likely be a subject in studying agriculture?
 - a. European history
 - b. scientific harvesting
 - c. American literature
 - d. urban economics

5. Based on the passage, it can be inferred that Carver created peanut butter
 - a. because he needed something to put on his sandwich.
 - b. because he really liked the taste of peanuts.
 - c. because he did experiments with peanuts.
 - d. because he did experiments with sweet potatoes.

6. Where did George Washington Carver become a professor?

7. What did Carver create that is important for students? Why?

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

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

- a. since
- b. so
- c. though
- d. because

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In 1894, Carver received a degree in agriculture from Iowa State University.

Who? Carver

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** expert: someone who knows a lot about a certain subject.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 600

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: This passage describes the achievements of George Washington Carver, who was born as a slave, but eventually received a degree in agriculture and became a professor and expert in the field.

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6. Where did George Washington Carver become a professor?

Suggested answer: George Washington Carver was a professor at Tuskegee University in Alabama.

7. What did Carver create that is important for students? Why?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, but might suggest that ink is his most important creation, because without ink, people couldn't write.

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

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In 1894, Carver received a degree in agriculture from Iowa State University.

Who? Carver

What? **received a degree in agriculture**

When? **in 1894**

Where? **from Iowa State University**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** expert: someone who knows a lot about a certain subject.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.