

Name _____

Date _____

Historical Heroes: Booker T. Washington



Directions: Read the passage below, then answer the questions that follow.

Booker T. Washington was born enslaved on April 5, 1856. His family lived on a plantation in Virginia. They worked hard and lived in a small shack.

President Lincoln ended slavery in the United States in 1865. Enslaved people became free. But life was not easy just because they were free. Booker T.

Washington had to get a job when he was nine years old. He needed to help support his poor family.

He learned to read and write at school. He went to college at Hampton Institute. He was a student there. He also worked as a custodian. He cleaned the college to earn money to pay for school.

He became a teacher at Hampton Institute. After that, Booker T. Washington helped open a new school for African American students. It was called the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. This school is still around today. It is now called Tuskegee University.

Washington wanted a good education for all African Americans, and he worked his whole life to achieve this goal. He was famous for speaking about education and civil rights. He died in 1915.

Questions

1. Booker T. Washington lived on a _____ plantation _____ with his family.

2. Why did Booker T. Washington get a job when he was nine years old?

Booker T. Washington got a job when he was nine years old because enslaved people became free. He needed to help support his family when they were free.

3. Where did Booker T. Washington go to college?

Booker T. Washington went to college at Hampton Institute.

4. How did he earn money to pay for college?

He earned money to pay for college by being a janitor at Hampton Institute while he was also a student.

5. How did Booker T. Washington help other African American people get an education?

Booker T. Washington helped create a college for African American students. It was called Tuskegee Institute. Now it is called Tuskegee University.