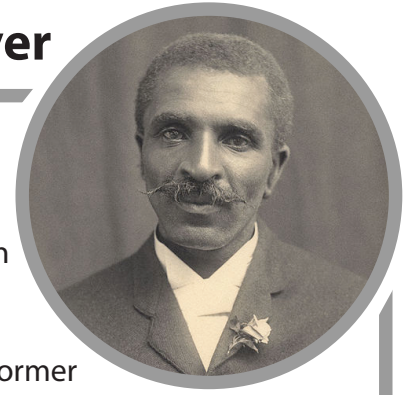


Historical Heroes: George Washington Carver



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

George Washington Carver was born enslaved. There are no records that give the exact date of his birth. Historians say that it was some time between 1861 and 1864.

Slavery ended in 1865. But George and his brother James stayed with their former slaveholders. Moses and Susan Carver raised the boys as their own sons. They taught them to read and write. They encouraged George's learning. He took their last name and was called George Carver.

Carver went to Simpson College in Iowa. A teacher noticed that he was good at drawing flowers. The teacher encouraged him to study botany. Botany is the study of plants.

Carver then went to study at Iowa State Agricultural College. There was another student named George Carver. He added Washington to his name so he could stand out. At the Agricultural College, he earned a master's degree. After that, Booker T. Washington invited George Washington Carver to work at Tuskegee Institute. He was the leader of the agricultural department. He worked there for 47 years. He taught former enslaved people farming techniques so they could support themselves.

Carver taught about crop rotation. Crop rotation is the practice of planting different crops in the same fields year to year. It helps the soil keep its nutrients.

Many people think that George Washington Carver invented peanut butter. But that is not true! He created other things using peanuts. He created non-food products. Soap, shaving cream, and lotion are just a few examples.

Questions

1. George Washington Carver was raised by Moses and Susan Carver, his former slaveholders.

2. What did George Carver study at Simpson College?

George Carver studied botany at Simpson College.

3. Where did George Washington Carver work for 47 years?

George Washington Carver worked at Tuskegee Institute as the leader of the agricultural department.

4. How did George Washington Carver help other people? *Student answers will vary, but may include:*

George Washington Carver helped other people by teaching them about crop rotation. He was also

helpful because he invented many products that others could use to make their lives easier.