

INFORMATIONAL READING COMPREHENSION: Biography of George Washington Carver

Answer the questions about the biography. **Sample answers**

1. What is the central idea of the passage?
- A. George Washington Carver helped farmers use the best pesticides and fungicides.
 - B. George Washington Carver gained international fame for developing systematic crop rotation.
 - C. George Washington Carver made significant contributions to American agriculture.
 - D. George Washington Carver taught farmers about the benefits of growing peanuts.

2. **Part A:** According to paragraph 2, what is botany?

Botany is the study of plants.

Part B: Include a sentence from paragraph 2 that supports your answer to Part A.

“After college, Carver continued to study plants and became famous as a brilliant botanist.”

3. Based on the information in the passage, how did Carver’s childhood impact his career?

As a child, Carver wasn’t strong enough to work in the fields and developed an interest in plants. When his art teacher noticed this interest, she encouraged him to study botany. He went on to have a career as an agricultural scientist.

4. How did Carver’s work impact the lives of farmers in the South? Describe two ways.

- 1. **Carver showed farmers how to use crop rotation to restore nutrients in the soil.**
- 2. **Carver discovered hundreds of uses for the new crops so that farmers could market and use those crops.**

5. Read the sentence from paragraph 4.
*He discovered more than 300 uses for peanuts, causing him to be **erroneously** credited as the inventor of peanut butter.*

What does the word erroneously mean in this sentence?

- A. incorrectly
- B. unsatisfactorily
- C. carelessly
- D. definitely

6. What can you infer about Carver’s personality and character from this biography? Use details from the text to explain your answer.

George Washington Carver was passionate, intelligent, and persistent, and he demonstrated great curiosity and ingenuity. As a child, he wanted to learn about the plants on the farm and experimented with natural pesticides and fungicides. Later, he spent his career conducting research and sharing his knowledge with farmers to help them successfully grow and use their crops.

7. In your own words, summarize George Washington Carver’s contributions to agriculture.

George Washington Carver supported individual farmers, as well as the economy in the South, by developing a farming technique called systematic crop rotation. With this method, he encouraged farmers to plant alternative crops to help restore nutrients to the soil. He also discovered hundreds of uses for these new crops. George Washington Carver later worked with leaders in India and the United States to advise them on agricultural matters.
