

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ with his family.

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

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

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

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

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