



**George
Washington
Carver**

George Washington Carver



Who is this person in the picture? What do you remember about Johnny Appleseed? Don't forget that Johnny Appleseed became famous because he traveled throughout the United States, planting apple seeds everywhere he could, so that apple trees would grow everywhere.

George Washington Carver

Today you will learn about another person who became famous because of his love for plants. Listen carefully to find out what this person did because he loved plants and how he became famous.

George Washington Carver



Today you are going to hear about another man, who like Johnny Appleseed, became famous because of his love for plants. He, too, lived many years ago, though not quite as long ago as Johnny Appleseed.

George Washington Carver



His name was George Washington Carver. He became famous throughout the United States as a **botanist**--which is a scientist who studies plants. George first developed his interest in plants as a young boy.

George Washington Carver



As a child, George used his free time to explore the forests surrounding his home on a farm in Missouri.



George Washington Carver



George was especially curious about the different kinds of plants that he noticed during his explorations. He wanted to study these plants further, but he knew that if he pulled them out of the ground and took them back to the cabin, they would die.

Why would the plants die? What do plants need to survive?

George Washington Carver



So when George found an interesting plant, he would carefully dig it up and remove it from the place it was growing, roots and all, so that he could plant it in a special garden close to the cabin.

Here the word garden means a plot of land where plants are grown. The word garden can have other meanings. The word garden also means what you do when you put living things in the soil so they can grow.

George Washington Carver



George moved plant after plant to his special garden, where he looked after each and every plant, watering and caring for them all to make sure that they continued to grow. As an adult, George later wrote, "I literally lived in the woods. I wanted to know every strange stone, flower, insect, bird or beast. Day after day I spent time in the woods alone in order to collect my floral beauties and put them in my little garden I had hidden in the brush not far from the house..."

George Washington Carver



What are floral beauties? What did George do with the floral beauties?

George Washington Carver



Fascinated by the plants in his garden, George spent hours tending, observing, and studying them. In time, he came to learn about the special needs of each plant--how much water each needed, whether it grew best in full sunlight or with some shade. George also took a special interest in caring for plants that were not growing well.

George Washington Carver



He became so skillful at caring for these sick plants that people throughout the neighborhood began to call him the "plant doctor".

George Washington Carver



George's passion for plants led him to develop another talent, that of an artist. Of course, his favorite subjects to paint were his beloved plants! Though he did not have a proper canvas or paints, he improvised with what he could find.

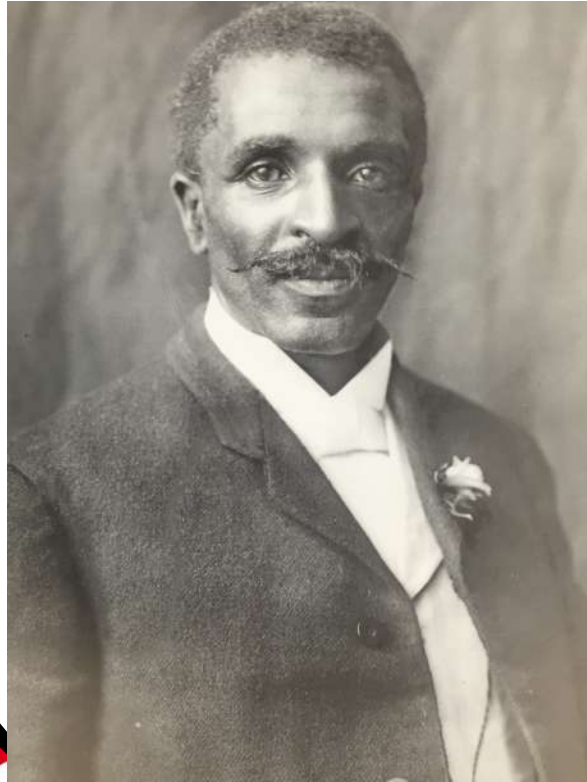
A canvas is something you paint on. When you improvise, you make or do something with whatever you have.

George Washington Carver



George made his first paints from different plant parts. He mashed bark, roots, and wild berries, and used them to paint on old boards or even flat rocks. George continued to paint throughout his entire life.

George Washington Carver



George was truly a remarkable and talented person. He was an excellent student who learned quickly. He went on to study at college, eventually becoming an expert in botany, the study of plants. After he finished college, George became a professor at a famous university in Alabama.



George Washington Carver



*There, he spent the rest of his life continuing to study plants and experiment with ways to make them grow better. He discovered many ways to help farmers improve how they grew plants and **crops** on their farms.*

Crops are plants that are grown in large numbers to be used by people.

George Washington Carver



George encouraged farmers to grow crops other than cotton--especially peanuts and sweet potatoes. He also found many ways to use peanuts in all different types of products like dyes, oils, and makeup. He even came up with a number of recipes for foods that used peanuts. George Washington Carver is especially remembered today for these discoveries.

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What is a botanist?

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

Who was the botanist you heard about in the read aloud?

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

How did George Washington Carver learn so much about plants?

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

Why was George Washington Carver called the "Plant Doctor"?

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

How did George Washington Carver make his paints?

George Washington Carver

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential

*How did George Washington Carver help farmers?
What two plants did he encourage farmers to
plant?*

Think. Pair. Share.

Evaluative:



George Washington Carver was an extraordinary and special person in many ways. Of all the different things that George Washington Carver did or accomplished during his life, which one do you think was the most extraordinary?

Word Work

Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

George Washington Carver

*In the read aloud you heard, "George Washington Carver discovered many ways to help farmers improve how they grew plants and **crops** on their farms."*

*Say the word **crops** with me.
Whisper **crops** to the ceiling.
Whisper **crops** to the floor.
Let's clap the word out.*

George Washington Carver

Crops are plants that are grown in large numbers for people to use.



corn crops for p

George Washington Carver

*What other types of plants do you think could be grown as **crops**? Think about some of the plants people eat. Try to use the word **crops** when you tell about it.*

*"I would like to grow _____ **crops** because...."*

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*What are the words we have been
talking about?*

Let's clap them out.

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