

"I Want to be a Scientist like George Washington Carver"- Kindergarten lesson plan
George Washington Carver ~1864-1943

George Washington Carver was born at the end of the Civil War around the year of 1864. He was enslaved when he was born. George loved the outdoors. He liked to walk in the woods and he grew a garden. He learned so many things about plants and growing them that people asked for his help with their plants when he was young. His love for plants and his determination to learn new things led him to leave home at the age of 12 to go to school. He studied hard for many years and became a well known scientist and teacher. During his life he discovered over 300 uses for peanuts such as; peanut milk, soap, face cream, ink and making paper. He also discovered many uses for sweet potatoes including creating glue, sugar, starch and soaps. He experimented with lots of plants and helped people grow better crops and taught about crop rotation. He was recognized often and received awards including the Roosevelt Medal for outstanding contributions to Southern agriculture. He even spoke to congress in 1921 about agriculture and peanuts.

Lesson Plan:

Show this video to your students of the book being read titled "I Want to be a Scientist like George Washington Carver".

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGSExQM__ew&t=12s

Created by waterford.org

(In the video it says Carver created peanut butter. This is not a fact...ancient Aztec and Inca civilization were probably the first to crush peanuts into a butter and Marcellus Edson of Canada created the first patented way to produce peanut butter in 1884.)

What did George have questions about as a boy?

Plants. He learned all he could about them and how to grow them and help them if they were sick. He did experiments with plants to learn about them. **An experiment is a test to find out something new.** He became known as the "Little Plant Doctor".

Could George go to school as a young boy?

No he was not allowed at the school because he was black. So at the age of 12 he moved away from home to go to a school he could attend.

George spent many years going to different schools and learned many things. He became a scientist and then a teacher. He taught farmers how to plant new crops and keep the soil healthy by rotating or changing the things they planted. He helped a lot of people. George loved to experiment and try new things.

Have you ever done an experiment? What were you trying to find out?

Optional activity:

Teach the children about the peanut plant which George used to do a lot of his experiments with. He used all the parts of the plant including the peanut shells for making paper.

Show the picture to the children and label the plant parts together. Let them color it in.

George worked hard and did not give up. He would keep experimenting until he found answers. He discovered over 300 ways to use peanuts. He continued experimenting until he was very old and he never stopped learning.