

George Washington Carver

1861–1943

George Washington Carver was born into slavery during the Civil War. Like many other slaves, he took the last name of his owner, Moses Carver. Mr. Carver was kind to George, and treated him like a member of his own family.

As a child, George was very curious and intelligent. He dreamed of going to school. At the time, however, African Americans weren't allowed to attend the local school. Mr. Carver helped him get into a different school in another town eight miles away.

George was a good student, but he didn't start college until 1891, when he was about 30 years old. After graduation, George started teaching science classes. He was the first black professor at Iowa State College, and he quickly gained a reputation as an outstanding scientist.

In 1896 George was invited to teach at the Tuskegee Institute, an all-black college in Alabama. George accepted, because he had always wanted to help other African Americans get an education.

In the South, cotton was an important crop. Some farmers planted only cotton. George discovered that it was important to change crops. He told farmers to alternate sweet potatoes and peanuts with cotton. By doing that, the soil kept its nutrients. In his laboratory, George also found other uses for peanuts. He developed over 300 products from the peanut plant. By the time he died, in 1942, he was recognized as the world's greatest plant scientist.



TIMELINE



George W. Carver

America

was born into slavery	1861	
	1865	the Civil War ended
	1881	Booker T. Washington established Tuskegee Institute
	1891	
began college at the age of 30	1892	Ellis Island was opened
	1896	
started teaching at the Tuskegee Institute	1890s	
encouraged farmers to start plant- ing soybeans and peanuts	1900s	
developed over 300 products from the peanut plant	1907	Rachel Carson was born
	1927	
patented soy-based paints	1931	the Dust Bowl began; the drought continued until 1939
	1932	Franklin Roosevelt was elected President
died at the age of 82	1943	

Research:

www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/gwc/home.html