

Title: George Washington Carver
Subtitle: Peanut Farmer and Scientist

Cover image: [Library of Congress](#)

Description

Born into slavery during the Civil War, George Washington Carver became one of America's preeminent scientists. Dr. Carver pioneered the implementation of crop rotation with specific nitrogen-generating crops like peanuts and other legumes, with the goal of helping African American farmers newly freed from slavery. Carver also mentored a generation of African American scientists at Tuskegee University in Alabama. Still, Carver was subject to the entrenched segregation of the United States at the turn of the 19th century. While celebrated in the media, Carver was still not free to use white only spaces in the South.

Magnifier

Directions: Use the magnifier to read the article "President Keynotes Tribute to Carver, Negro Scientist" and answer the questions in the boxes below.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/2019270505/1948-01-08/ed-1/seq-1/>

Text version:

President Keynotes Tribute To Carver, Negro Scientist

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—The great and the humble joined in tribute Monday to a frail, slave-born Negro, George Washington Carver, who rose to international fame as a scientist, educator and humanitarian.

Government officials, headed by President Truman himself, praised Dr. Carver in simple memorial ceremonies at Tuskegee Institute, where the renowned Negro spent most of a long and brilliant career.

The program here keyed Carver day ceremonies across the nation on the fifth anniversary of his death. Carver, a University of Iowa graduate, who rose to prominence through his research work in peanuts and sweet potatoes, was memorialized with the issuance of a special three-cent stamp.

President Truman sent a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, and Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson was present to inaugurate the stamp issue.

President Truman's telegram said in part: "I always held Dr. Carver, and now hold his memory, in great esteem. Tuskegee Institute is to be congratulated on its privilege of carrying on, thru the George Washington Carver foundation, the spirit and methods of so distinguished a scientist and benefactor to mankind."

The postmaster general, speaking to a mixed audience in the chapel, said "Dr. Carver is in every sense of the word one of the most outstanding Americans of our time."

Questions

1. What does this article help you see, think, or wonder?
2. Why was it significant that Carver taught at the Tuskegee Institute?
3. Where does George Washington Carver fit into the story of America and its African American heritage?

Source: *The Voice*. Lincoln, Nebraska. Jan. 8, 1948. [Library of Congress](#)

Annotate This Image



Directions: Analyze the picture of George W. Carver's chemistry laboratory utilizing the magnifier to help you. Then use the annotation tool to take notes on the following questions:

1. What do you see, think, or wonder about this document?
2. What is unique about the people in the picture given that it was taken in 1902?
3. Does the students' attire in the laboratory say anything in particular?

Download the notes to share with your class.

Source: Johnston, Frances Benjamin, Chemistry laboratory at Tuskegee Institute, ca. 1902. [Library of Congress](#)

Puzzler

Directions

Take a look at the different sections of the illustration one by one and answer the question that accompanies each section. At the end, you will see the completed image.



- 1) What kind of environment is this? Where is the photo set?



- 2) Is this the type of clothing worn by a typical farmer? What does the man here appear to be holding?



3) What do you notice about the earth and other details in this segment?



4) What do you think is being collected in this bucket?

Full image: George Washington Carver, full-length portrait, standing in field, probably at Tuskegee, holding piece of soil. Why do you think Carver is dressed this way while working in the fields?



Source: [Library of Congress](#)

