

A detailed illustration of George Washington Carver in a laboratory setting. He is an older man with glasses, wearing a white shirt, a dark tie, and a white apron. He is focused on pouring a green liquid from a small vial into a funnel. The background shows various laboratory equipment, including a large flask on a stand, a smaller flask, and a plant. The overall style is a soft, painterly illustration.

I Want to Be a Scientist Like



GEORGE WASHINGTON
CARVER

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ILLUSTRATED BY JEFFREY B. MERRILL



“What could be making this tree sick?” George Washington Carver climbed all over the tree, looking at it carefully to see what might be wrong.



George had questions about everything,
especially plants!



When George was a boy, the school by his house was for White children only. He was not allowed to go to school.

That didn't stop him from learning, though. He did experiments with plants to find the answers to many of his questions.





He learned so much about plants that people called him “The Little Plant Doctor.”



But George wanted to learn much more. He dreamed of going to a school with books and teachers.

Around the age of 11, he had to move away from home to go to school. The nearest town with a school for Black children was eight miles away. He walked to the town, and a married Black couple took him in. Then he began school.

After many years going to different schools, George became a scientist. As a scientist, he experimented with plants. He also taught others what he learned.





When cotton wouldn't grow well, he told farmers to plant peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes. Growing these plants made the soil better for other plants.



He even invented over 300 things to do with peanuts.
George did not invent peanut butter as some people believe.
But he did help peanut butter become more popular!





George Washington Carver became a famous scientist. Late in his life, he set up a museum to help people learn about his work and his life.

He also saved money and used it to create a foundation to help young scientists. Both places still exist in Alabama.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

c. 1865–1943

Education

Simpson College

Iowa State Agricultural School

Educator

*Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute

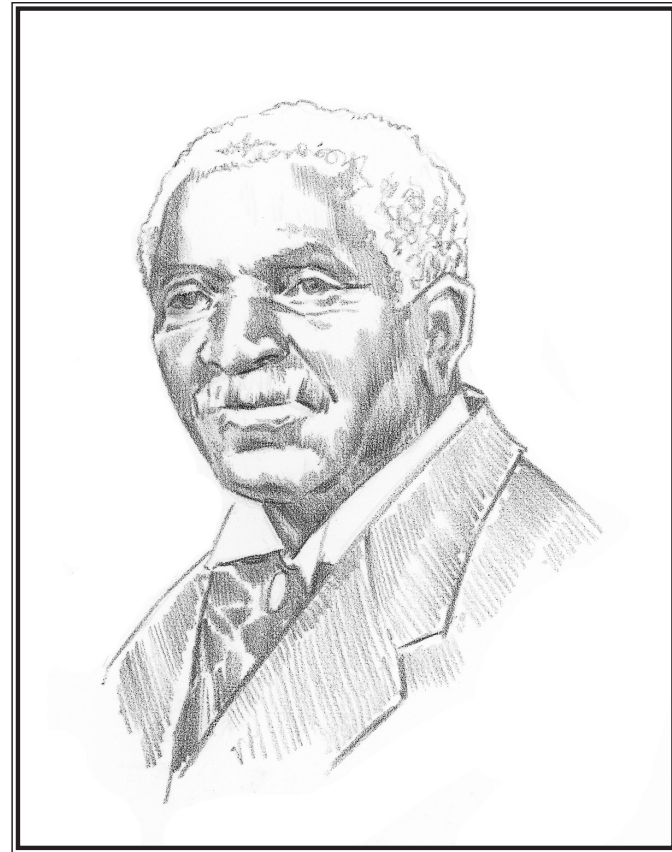
Inventor/Scientist

George Washington Carver developed hundreds of products from peanuts, soybeans, pecans, and sweet potatoes. These products included cosmetics, paints and dyes, building materials, fuels, lubricants, and many foods.

His work enabled farmers in the South to profit from a variety of crops.

Humanitarian

Carver refused to profit from his inventions. He donated his life savings to agricultural research and education.



His epitaph reads:

He could have added fortune to fame, but caring for neither, he found happiness and honor in being helpful to the world.

* Tuskegee is an HBCU or historically Black college or university. HBCUs were opened to give Black people a place to attend college or university. Before the Civil Rights Act in 1964, many colleges and universities did not allow Black students.

Math & Science

Scientist

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