



#8856

THE PEANUT MAN: GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Grade Levels: 6-12

30 minutes

GRACE PRODUCTS CORPORATION 1999

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

Drey, a young African-American student, faces a hard choice about resuming his drug use. In a strange encounter, he finds himself back in time with renowned scientist George Washington Carver, who also faces a difficult choice. Doing what is right, no matter the cost, is an important lesson for both Carver and Drey. Quiz after the video credits.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Historical Understanding

- ◆ Standard: Understands the historical perspective
 - Benchmark: Analyzes the values held by specific people who influenced history and the role their values played in influencing history

Subject Area: Self-Regulation

- ◆ Standard: Sets and manages goals
 - Benchmark: Identifies and ranks relevant options in terms of accomplishing a goal

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To launch a discussion in making the right choices in one's personal life.
2. To study George Washington Carver's life.
3. To study Booker T. Washington's life.
4. To identify products that came from the peanut.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. African American | 7. bushwhackers |
| 2. agriculture | 8. chemistry |
| 3. biology | 9. choice |
| 4. boll | 10. Civil War |
| 5. boll weevil | 11. conservation |
| 6. botany | 12. crop rotation |

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| 13. ecology | 19. Homestead Act |
| 14. emancipation | 20. Jim Crow laws |
| 15. Emancipation Proclamation | 21. legume |
| 16. equality | 22. Normal School |
| 17. freedom | 23. sharecropping |
| 18. grafting | 24. slave |

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why was Dr. George Washington Carver nicknamed "The Peanut Man"?
2. What was important about Tuskegee, Alabama?
3. Name one of the food items besides peanuts that Dr. Carver worked with to create new products.
4. Name the founder of Tuskegee Institute.
5. Where did the peanut come from?
6. Finish Mr. Carver's famous saying that the librarian quoted. "Nothing is useless. A weed is simply a _____ growing in the wrong place."
7. Name one product Dr. Carver discovered that comes from peanuts.
8. What life lesson did Drey learn from Dr. Carver?
9. Why is the library card the key to infinite knowledge?
10. Why do you think Dr. Carver put all of his bonus checks in a drawer without cashing them?
11. Dr. Carver taught us about generosity and selflessness. How can you apply this to your life?

Applications and Activities

1. Grow peanut plants outside or if the weather is not appropriate, plant inside and transplant later. To start, soak the raw unshelled nuts for a few days to watch them sprout. Place two to three nuts or sprouts about five to six inches deep about a foot apart. Using different kinds of soil and enriching the soil with fertilizer will show how Dr. Carver worked. Peanuts will need to be dug up and removed from the pegs. Dry the peanuts for two weeks or so before eating, roasting, etc.
2. Discuss and experiment with different kinds of soil by partially submerging a potato of any kind into a jar of water. Use toothpicks to hold the top half of the potato above the water. After vines and roots appear, transplant to a pot of soil or outside.



3. Research the structure of a peanut plant and a peanut. Start by dissecting a peanut and/or a peanut plant. Working in groups or alone, students can draw a diagram and explain what parts of the plants create what products. Research can also reveal what percentages of the plant are protein, fat, vitamins, etc.
4. Take a nature walk. Identify the types of plants by their common and Latin names.
5. Go to the grocery store. How many different kinds of nuts are on display? How are they different in texture, smell and taste? How many products are made from peanuts other than peanut butter? How many types of peanut butter can be found?
6. Interview a farmer to learn how crops are grown, rotated and harvested. A written, oral, or videotaped report should follow.
7. Read Dr. Carver's favorite poem, "Equipment" by Edgar A. Guest. What does it say about doing the right thing? Can you apply it to your own life?
8. Using a map, trace Dr. Carver's life journey from Diamond, Missouri, to Tuskegee, Alabama. Use another map to follow Booker T. Washington's journeys. (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS.)

SUMMARY

Although we all make bad choices at times in our lives, our goal is to get as much information about something and make the best decision we can at the time. What we must then do is learn to face the consequences of those choices.

The young man at the beginning of this drama has to make a choice about drugs and alcohol. He has already made some wrong choices in the past.

Dr. George Washington Carver made choices in his life which inspire and encourage us even today. He was born into slavery; yet he became one of the most respected and admired men in American history. Was he able to do that because the government gave him land? No. Was he a revered scientist because someone gave him a diploma? No. He simply chose to become educated no matter what the cost.

From his education he learned how to get the things he wanted in his life. When faced with simple or difficult choices, he had one rule. He asked himself, "Is it right?"

No matter what the choices may be, we might all fare better if we stop to consider, "Is it right?"



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Boyhood of George Washington Carver #896
- In Medical Science #8769
- Making It Happen: Masters of Invention #3380



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid-safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER’S FAVORITE PEANUT RECIPES**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/recipes/peanutrecipes.html>

In Carver’s bulletin dated 1925, he outlines “How to Grow the Peanut and 105 Ways of Preparing it for Human Consumption.” A very informative site on his opinion of the peanut, cultivation, and numerous recipes.

- **UP FROM SLAVERY**

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/washington/cover.html>

An autobiography of Booker T. Washington. Click on his name and a table of contents appears for you to click on a specific chapter to learn more about this man.

- **TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE**

<http://www.nps.gov/tuin/>

Gives a brief overview of this Normal School for Negroes in Tuskegee, Alabama, on the opening page. Click on “Learn More about the History of the Park” to get a more detailed description.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHICS

- Chronology of Dr. George Washington Carver

Chronology of Dr. George Washington Carver

- c. 1864** Born in Diamond Grove, Missouri.
- 1877:** Begins formal education in Neosho, Missouri.
- 1884:** Attends high school in Minneapolis, Kansas.
- 1885:** Denied admission to Highland College in Kansas.
- 1886:** Becomes a homesteader in Ness County, Kansas.
- 1890:** Enrolls in Simpson College in Iowa.
- 1891:** Attends Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts.
- 1894:** Receives a bachelor of agriculture degree. Becomes a member of the staff.
- 1896:** Receives a master of agriculture degree from Iowa State. Becomes Director of Agriculture at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.
- 1898:** Begins issuing bulletins on his experiment station work.
- 1916:** Named to the advisory board of the National Agricultural Society. Elected a fellow of England's Royal Society for Encouragement of the Arts.
- 1918:** Becomes a consultant in agricultural research for the United States Department of Agriculture.
- 1921:** Appears before the House of Representatives for the peanut growers.
- 1923:** Awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP.
- 1928:** Receives honorary doctor of science degree from Simpson College.
- 1935:** Works as a collaborator with the Department of Agriculture.
- 1939:** Opens George Washington Carver Museum in a ceremony with Henry Ford.
- 1943:** Dies on January 5 in Tuskegee, Alabama.

