

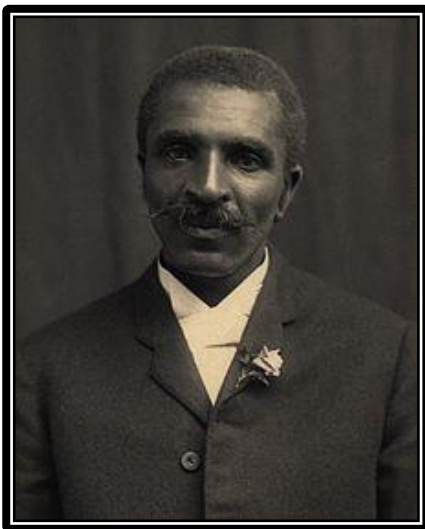
PROFILE OF RESISTANCE

George Washington Carver

Agricultural scientist, activist

“When you can do the common things of life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.”

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Background Information

Born: 1864, exact date unknown

Death: January 5, 1943

George Washington Carver was born in Missouri around 1864, but the date is unknown. He and his brothers were orphaned when his enslaved parents died. When the Civil War ended slavery, Moses and Susan Carver adopted and raised George as their own. While young, he developed an interest in plants and learned all about them and how to care for them. He moved all around the country looking for good schools, and graduated high school in Kansas. Carver attended Iowa State Agricultural School to study botany, the scientific study of plants. He was the first Black student to receive a college degree in any scientific field.¹

Carver's Resistance

After he graduated from college, Carver worked as a teacher and a botanist. Booker T. Washington invited him to lead the Tuskegee Institute's agricultural department in 1896. While there, he helped develop many farming techniques, like crop rotation. Carver's techniques helped farmers tend to their land while also maintaining the nutrients in the soil. This ensured the land could be used long-term without ruining its soil.² He created vinegar, dyes, and paints out of plants that seemed to have little use. However, he is widely known as the "peanut man", because he developed over 300 uses for the crop. His research singlehandedly made peanuts an important plant in America.¹

Achievements

In 1943, the first monument dedicated to an African American was posthumously erected in Carver's honor in Diamond, Missouri. Carver was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1977.³ Carver made the Tuskegee Institute a hub of scientific research and study, bringing fame and funding to the Historically Black College (HBCU). The innovations Carver made in the fields of agriculture and chemistry, paved the way for African American scientists today.

¹ History.com Editors. (2019, December 13). *George Washington Carver*. History.Com. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/george-washington-carver>

² Biography.com Editors. (2020, January 16). *George Washington Carver*. Biography. <https://www.biography.com/scientist/george-washington-carver>

³ Wikipedia contributors. (2020, October 6). *George Washington Carver*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_Carver#Honors

