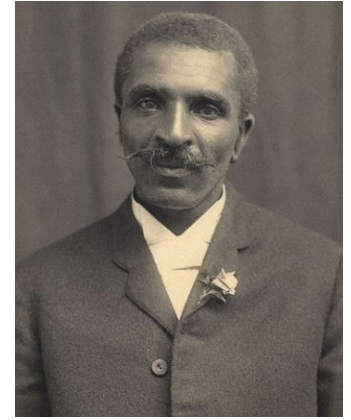


# Lesson 1 - Student Worksheet

## George Washington Carver: The Man, The Scientist, The Artist

George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist in the early 1900s. Carver was an African American scientist born at the end of the Civil War in southwest Missouri. After the loss of his mother he was raised by Moses and Susan Carver. While not fully accepted in his lifetime, many of Carver's ideas formed the foundation for conservation efforts that have developed in the past 100 years.



The focus of today's activity is to learn some basic history of Carver and the development of his role in science and his artistic works.

*... education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom ...*

George Washington Carver

### Instructions:

Take a posterboard or large piece of construction paper and divide it into four sections. Label the sections as shown.

Assign group members different sections. You should answer each of the questions on your paper and then work together to put everything on your poster. Remember to use neat handwriting on the poster.

George Washington Carver

Picture	History
Science	Art

### History

1. Where was George Washington Carver (GWC) born?
2. When was GWC born?
3. What happened to GWC as an infant that resulted in him losing his mother and being raised by his mother's owners?
4. GWC suffered from several medical conditions as a child. How did these conditions affect his development of his interests and abilities as a child?
5. At what age did GWC leave the Moses farm? Why did he leave?
6. Carver traveled throughout the Midwest gathering different amounts of education until he finally ended up at what is now Iowa State University to earn his college degrees. Pick one of these locations and give a brief description of Carver's life there.
7. Carver is most well-known for his work at Tuskegee University. What brought him to Tuskegee?
8. What roles did Carver have at Tuskegee?
9. Carver was not considered a leader in the Civil Right Movement because he rarely commented on civil rights issues. Explain Carver's reasoning for staying out of the Civil Rights debate.
10. Include a picture.



## Science

11. Carver developed an interest in plants early on in life. Describe how he became known as the “plant doctor” while growing up on the Carver farm.
12. What was the driving force behind Carver’s desire to learn about plants?
13. Carver focused much of his scientific work on agriculture to enrich those in poverty including the African American community. Why did Carver choose this focus?
14. Carver is known as the “peanut man” but in reality he focused on several plants. What other plants did Carver focus on?
15. What was Carver’s goal in providing agricultural knowledge to the poor? What did he hope his methods would accomplish for poor farmers in the South?
16. Why did Carver struggle to be successful with other academics and scientists?
17. Carver spent time finding alternative ways to work the land to increase productivity. Pick one of his methods and describe how it would work and what problem it would solve.
18. Carver also wanted to find alternative ways to use plant products (ex. peanut milk, soy products to create plastic, etc.). Pick one of these products and describe the product and why it would be more environmentally friendly than what was currently in use at the time.
19. Include a picture.

## Art and Religion

20. Carver developed his love of artwork as a child. Explain how he developed his talent.
21. Carver initially wanted to study art in college. What college did he wish to go to and why did he change his focus?
22. What was the focus of Carver’s artistic work?
23. What role did art play in Carver’s life as he worked at Tuskegee?
24. What religion was Carver?
25. What role did his faith in God play in his work (both science and art)?
26. What was Carver’s overarching life philosophy with regard to faith and science?
27. What impact did Carver’s focus on religion and faith have in his acceptance into the scientific community?
28. Include a picture

## Sources

29. Your sources should be listed on the back of your poster.

**Resources:** (these sources are a starting point but feel free to use more)

[George Washington Carver National Monument \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/georgewashingtoncarver/)  
[Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/tuskegeeinstitute/)  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/George-Washington-Carver>  
<https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/c/carver/>  
<https://www.livescience.com/41780-george-washington-carver.html>