

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Performance Standard 16CUS.F

Create a poster depicting the contributions of George Washington Carver and write an essay on the impact of his contributions to our lives accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: Identify and describe ten of the contributions of George Washington Carver.
- *Reasoning*: Analyze the influences and impacts of his contributions to the economy and our lives today.
- *Communication*: Make a poster and write an essay that is well-focused, well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. *In order to understand the development of economic systems (16C)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following skills in order to understand the development of economic systems:
 - Research the contributions of historical figures to our lives today.
 - Evaluate how an individual's ideas, inventions, or entrepreneurship affected the economy then and now.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Identify at least ten advancements/inventions/discoveries made by Carver. Provide each student a copy of the one page reading on George Washington Carver. Have students do further research on the Internet or in the library. For example, provide students one class period in the library to briefly research Carver's work while he was at Tuskegee Institute.
4. Ask each student to create a poster on which he/she will be required to depict at least ten advancements, inventions, and discoveries made by Carver. Students should title the poster and use both word-labels and pictures. Pictures may be hand-drawn, computer generated, or photo-copied.
5. Ask each student to write a one-page handwritten essay describing the possible influences (including economic impacts) of Carver's work on our lives today. Students may include products that we use, methods of farming, or other ways that this scientist brought long-lasting change to our way of life.
6. (Optional) Have each student make a 3 - 5 minute presentation using the poster as a visual aid.
7. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: Identification and descriptions of at least 10 of Carver's contributions were complete and correct.
 - *Reasoning*: The explanation of the influences and impacts of Carver's contributions on our lives was thorough and accurate.
 - *Communication*: The poster and the written explanation were well-focused, well-organized, and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

Time Requirements

- Two to three class periods

Resources

- "George Washington Carver" handout
- Library reference materials
- Poster paper
- Markers, pencils, colored pencils
- Social Science Rubric

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Wizard of Tuskegee

George Washington Carver began raising peanuts at Tuskegee Institute's experimental station around 1903. Over the years he developed more than 300 products from this simple legume, 100 products from the sweet potato, and found 60 uses for the pecan. By the early 1920s he had gained increasing attention, but it was not until the thirties that he received the recognition due him.

Carver had been born into slavery on a farm near Diamond, Missouri. He never knew his mother, who had been abducted by slave raiders when he was an infant. His father had been killed in a farming accident about the time that George was born. For most of his youth he was raised by a white couple, Susan and Moses Carter. When he was just twelve years old Carver left home in search of an education. His quest took him to Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa, where he graduated from Iowa State College in 1894. Two years later Carver accepted a position at Tuskegee Institute at the request of its founder, Booker T. Washington. There, Carver had teaching duties, as well as an experiment station where he conducted his work. In 1889 he began to issue periodicals, which explained his experiments and provided practical applications. For example, one pamphlet was titled *How to Build Up Worn Out Soils*.

Carver's continued work drew attention from several sources. England elected him a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts in 1916. One year later, the U.S. government called on Carver to discuss his bread-making process, which used sweet potato as a partial substitute for wheat. Inventor Thomas Edison offered Carver a job at his lab, complete with an enormous salary, but

George did not want to leave the South. His reputation continued to grow throughout the twenties and thirties. He was a popular speaker and often-in demand. His peanut oil massages as a therapy for polio victims aroused a great deal of public interest.



George Washington Carver

In 1938 a film, *The Story of Dr. Carver*, was made of the scientist's life. George even had a small part in the film, portraying himself as an older man. After his death on January 5, 1943, George Washington Carver was buried on the campus of Tuskegee Institute where he had worked for so many years. In 1948 the U.S. honored Carver with a commemorative stamp featuring his portrait.

Social Issues: Science and Technology

George Washington Carver's Inventions and Discoveries

There are many famous inventors and inventions in our world. One famous inventor is George Washington Carver. He invented many useful things we have today. Without his inventions life would be very different.

Some of Carver's inventions are: shampoo, instant coffee, marble tile, rubber, and much more. Without shampoo, people would have messy hair. Without instant coffee, people who want a quick cup would have to wait a while to make it. Without marble tile, some people would not be able to have marble on their floors. Without rubber, tires would not exist.

Our lives would be different from just those few inventions. Without all of his inventions, our lives would be very different.

George Washington Carver's Successes

I think that the inventions of George Washington Carver are an important part of society today. I think all of the inventions that George Washington Carver invented are of great use today. He invented organic fertilizer, which helps the soil to be richer for crops to grow. He discovered the preservation of crops for the winter, and this helped the farmers store food during winter. Also, he showed the farmers how to rotate their crops to save the soil.

However, the most important discovery and invention thought up by

Dr. Carver was to show the poor farmers how to take care of themselves. He showed them how to plant sweet potatoes, peas and peanuts. These crops are wonderful to eat and can be eaten all year long. Dr. Carver made sure that the poor farmers would have proper nutrition even in the winter time by planting crops that would last the winter.

The conclusion, modern day farmers owe much to Dr. Carver's discoveries with crops, crop rotation, soil, and organic soils. His discoveries made farming easier, faster, and more efficient.