

BLACK

HISTORY


Month

FREEBIE

George Washington Carver

Read the passage below and answer the questions

George Washington Carver (Jan. 1864 – Jan. 5, 1943) changed agriculture, or the growing of crops and raising of farm animals, in the Southern United States. He was a great scientist, botanist, inventor, and teacher. Carver's exact birthdate is unknown, but it is known that he was born enslaved. When he was young, he was interested in plants. His interest in plants earned him the nickname the "Plant Doctor." He even had his own secret garden in which he would experiment with his plants. Carver later went on to teach at the Tuskegee Institute, where he was the head of the Agriculture Department. Under his leadership, the department became a strong research center. He developed and published new uses for crops which improved farmers' ability to make money. He created over 100 peanut products that were useful for the home and family farm. These products included cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, and gasoline. Carver taught methods of *crop rotation*, or planting different crops in the same soil in order to improve the soil. These methods helped farmers to use soil more efficiently and to make more money. Poor farmers used these methods and ideas to improve their way of life. George Washington Carver accomplished all of this during a time when people of color were equal. Carver made great



Name _____

Reading Comprehension

1. What do you think that *agriculture* means? _____

2. List three different things that Carver was _____

3. What was Carver interested in when he was young? _____



4. What was his nickname? _____ Why did he have that nickname? _____

5. How can you tell that Carver was successful as leader of the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute? _____

6. What is *crop rotation*? _____

7. What kind of products did Carver _____

8. Why was it so important for poor farmers to use soil more efficiently? _____



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Looking to complete these activities in Google Classroom? The link below allows you to make a copy. This is ideal for distance learning or for using as a station in your classroom.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wQOqtv_G1BVmQ6NNcULqWKG8Ldh_ArvuxUsgbzayTwk/copy

Looking to complete these activitiy in Google Classroom? The link below allows you to make a copy. This is ideal for distance learning or for using as a station in your classroom.

This FREEBIE is just a sample of the complete unit. The complete unit can be found at:

[Black American Inventors Unit](#)

The COMPLETE Black American Inventors Unit Contains:

- Pictures and Suggestions for Fact Cards and Flipbooks
- Fact Cards for the following inventors
 - Patricia Bath
 - Benjamin Banneker
 - George Washington Carver
 - George Crum
 - Mark Dean
 - Dr. Charles R. Drew
 - Philip Emeagwali
 - Lonnie G. Johnson
 - Frederick McKinley Jones
 - Sarah E. Goode
 - Madam C.J. Walker
 - Lewis Howard Latimer
 - Marie Brown
 - Sarah Boone
- Pocket Pattern for Fact Cards (can be used in interactive notebooks)
- Flipbook Pattern for Inventors
- Match the Inventor Comprehension Activities
- When Were They Born Activity
- Domino Comprehension Activities
- Great Inventions Activity
- Benjamin Banneker Reading Comprehension Activity
- George Washington Carver Reading Comprehension Activity
- George Washington Carver Timeline Activity
- Madam C.J. Walker Reading Comprehension Activity
- Madam C.J. Walker Timeline Activity
- Pictures of how activities can be used in interactive notebooks

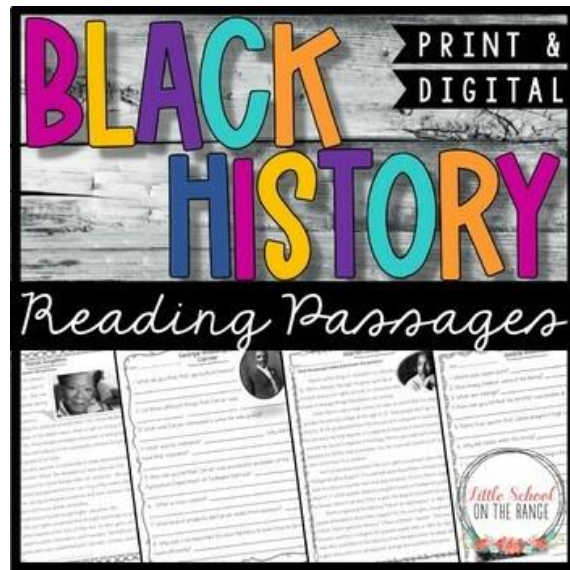


Looking for more Black History Month reading passages? Check out:

[Black History Month Reading Passages](#)

This unit contains reading passages and comprehension questions for the following 18 individuals:

- Alvin Ailey
- Maya Angelou
- Benjamin Banneker
- Simone Biles
- Guion Bluford
- Ruby Bridges
- George Washington Carver
- Alice Coachman
- Mae Jemison
- Michael Jordan
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Thurgood Marshall
- Barack Obama
- Jesse Owens
- Jackie Robinson
- Sojourner Truth
- Madam C.J. Walker
- Serana Williams



George Washington Carver

Name _____

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions

George Washington Carver (Jan. 1864 – Jan. 5, 1943) changed *agriculture*, or the growing of crops and raising of farm animals, in the Southern United States.



He was a great scientist, botanist, inventor, and teacher.

Carver's exact birthdate is unknown, but it is known that he was born enslaved. When he was young, he was interested in plants. His interest in plants earned him the nickname the "Plant Doctor." He even had his own secret garden in which he would experiment with his plants.

Carver later went on to teach at the Tuskegee Institute, where he was the head of the Agriculture Department. Under his leadership, the department became a strong research center. He developed and published new uses for crops which improved farmers' ability to make money. He created over 100 peanut products that were useful for the home and family farm. These products included cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, and gasoline.

Carver taught methods of *crop rotation*, or planting different crops in the same soil in order to improve the soil. These methods helped farmers to use soil more efficiently and to make more money. Poor farmers used these methods and ideas to improve their way of life.

George Washington Carver accomplished all of this during a time when it was not believed that people of color were equal. Carver made great strides to change these beliefs.

George Washington Carver

Reading Comprehension



Name _____

1. What do you think that *agriculture* means?

2. List three different things that Carver was.

3. What was Carver interested in when he was young?

4. What was his nickname? _____ Why did he have that nickname? _____

5. How can you tell that Carver was successful as leader of the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute? _____

6. What is *crop rotation*? _____


7. What kind of products did Carver make from peanuts? _____

8. Why was it so important for poor farmers to learn how to farm more efficiently? _____

Preview of the Black American Inventors unit


Black American Inventors Unit

Fact Cards #1




George Crum
1829 - 1898

- Chef
- Invented potato chips




Mark Dean
1923 - 2017

- Computer programmer
- Helped invent the personal computer



Dr. Charles R. Drew
1892 - 1950


- Medical doctor and surgeon
- Developed the concept of a blood bank



Philip Emeagwali
1953 - 2021


- Mathematician and computer scientist
- Invented the world's fastest computer

Fact Cards #2




Madam C.J. Walker
1867 - 1919

- Entrepreneur
- Invented a line of Black American hair care products
- First Black American woman millionaire




Lionel G. Johnson
1914 - 1986

- Inventor and engineer
- Invented the Super Soaker



Howard Latimer
1886 - 1925

- Inventor
- Invented the folding cabinet bed



Sarah E. Boone
1832 - 1914

- Inventor
- Invented potato

Pocket Pattern for Fact Cards

Black American Inventors Fact Cards

Domino Activity #1

Cut out the dominoes and make a domino train by matching the inventor to their invention.

George Washington Carver	Doctor that invented a laser to remove cataracts
Patricia Bath	Invented the first video home security system
Madam C.J. Walker	Invented an automatic refrigerator system for long haul trucks and train cars
George Crum	Developed a functioning clock
Mark Dean	Discovered hundreds

Domino Activity #2

Cut out the dominoes and make a domino train by matching the inventor to their invention.

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When Were They Born?

Use your fact cards to complete the sort. Write the names under the correct century in which they were born.

1700's	1800's	1900's
George Washington Carver	George Crum	Mark Dean
Charles Drew	Philip Emeagwali	Lionel G. Johnson
George Washington Carver	George Crum	Mark Dean
Charles Drew	Philip Emeagwali	Lionel G. Johnson
George Washington Carver	George Crum	Mark Dean
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George Washington Carver

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

George Washington Carver (Jan. 18, 1894 - Jan. 5, 1933) changed agriculture, or the growing of crops and raising of farm animals, in the Southern United States. He was a great scientist, botanist, inventor, and farmer. Carver's exact birthdate is unknown, but he was born in Missouri. When he was young, he was interested in plants and farming. He earned the nickname "the Plant Doctor" because of his knowledge of plants. Carver later went on to teach at the Tuskegee Institute. He was the head of the Agriculture Department. The department became a strong research center for crops which improved farmers' lives.

What are droughts?
Why would droughts be a problem?
Why was Benjamin's farm so important?

George Washington Carver

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

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1. What do you think that agriculture means?
2. List three different things that Carver was interested in when he was young?
3. What was Carver's nickname?
4. What was Carver's job at Tuskegee Institute?

Benjamin Banneker

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Benjamin Banneker was born on November 7, 1731 in Baltimore County, Maryland. His parents had been enslaved. He worked on the family tobacco farm and received most of his education from reading books. He took over the family farm at the age of 15. He invented an irrigation system to control water flow to the crops from springs nearby. As a result of the irrigation system, his farm was successful during droughts, or periods of little or no rain, his farm flourished. Sometime in the 1750s Benjamin borrowed a pocket watch from a friend. He was so impressed by the watch that he took it apart to see how it worked. After examining the watch, he built his own wooden clock. It was the first clock built in America and it ran for decades. When Benjamin was fifteen, he was studying the science of the universe. He was also interested in the science of the earth. He wrote several books about the science of the earth. His books were published in 1793 and 1794.

1. Where was Benjamin born?
2. What kind of farm did his family have?
3. How did he receive most of his education?
4. What did he do at the age of 15?

Madam C.J. Walker

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Madam C.J. Walker's original name was Sarah Breedlove. She was born on December 23, 1867 on the same Delta, Louisiana plantation on which her parents were once enslaved. After the Civil War, her parents became sharecroppers, or people who farm the land of other people and in return give the land owners part of their crops. When Sarah was seven, she became an orphan after she lost both of her parents. She moved to St. Louis to join her four sisters. Making only \$150 a month, she had to support her four sisters. She found a job as a sales agent for hair oil. She sold the hair oil, which was a new product, to the women in the neighborhood. She began selling hair care products. She married Charles Joseph Walker. She built her family home for a cost of \$250,000. She died at 51 as the wealthiest Black American woman in the United States.

1. What was Madam C.J. Walker's original name?
2. What are sharecroppers?
3. What happened when she turned seven?

Madam C.J. Walker

Reading Comprehension

Read the passage below and answer the questions.

Madam C.J. Walker's original name was Sarah Breedlove. She was born on December 23, 1867 on the same Delta, Louisiana plantation on which her parents were once enslaved. After the Civil War, her parents became sharecroppers, or people who farm the land of other people and in return give the land owners part of their crops. When Sarah was seven, she became an orphan after she lost both of her parents. She moved to St. Louis to join her four sisters. Making only \$150 a month, she had to support her four sisters. She found a job as a sales agent for hair oil. She sold the hair oil, which was a new product, to the women in the neighborhood. She began selling hair care products. She married Charles Joseph Walker. She built her family home for a cost of \$250,000. She died at 51 as the wealthiest Black American woman in the United States.

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1. What was Carver's nickname?
2. What was Carver's job at Tuskegee Institute?

Inventor Fact Cards



Pictures and Suggestions

All of the cards and the flipbooks are provided to serve as a reference for your students.

The pocket pattern can be used to hold the fact cards. These are ideal for interactive notebooks or flipbooks.

Several versions of the flipbooks are provided. They are available in vertical and horizontal versions. Students can complete the flipbooks or they can use the one with information already provided.

If you want your students to fill in the information, just print them one side and leave the inside blank.

BLACK AMERICAN INVENTORS


PRINT & DIGITAL

Little School on the Range

Preview of all the passages included in Black History Month Reading Passages

Alvin Ailey

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Alvin Ailey Jr. was born in Rogers, Texas on January 5, 1911 to Alvin and Lula Ailey. His father left him and his mother when he was less than a year old. When he was six, he moved with his mother to Navasota, Texas. He grew up during segregation, where often separated because of race, he often felt like he did not belong. He moved with his mother to Los Angeles, California where he worked in an aircraft factory. In high school, Ailey was involved in athletics, and joined the gymnastics and basketball teams. He was a member of the school's first basketball team. He was also a member of the school's first basketball team. He was also a member of the school's first basketball team.

1. Where was Alvin born?
2. What is segregation?
3. Why did Alvin often feel that he did not belong?

Benjamin Banneker

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Benjamin Banneker was born on November 7, 1731 in Baltimore County, Maryland. He was the son of formerly enslaved parents. He worked on the family tobacco farm. He was a mathematician, astronomer, and writer. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Benjamin born?
2. What kind of farm did he have?
3. How did he receive most of his education?

Maya Angelou

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Originally Marguerite Johnson, Maya Angelou was born on April 4, 1928 in St. Louis, Missouri. She was raised in Stamps, Arkansas during the Great Depression. She was a poet, author, and civil rights activist. She was also a member of the NAACP. She was also a member of the NAACP. She was also a member of the NAACP.

1. Where was Maya Angelou born?
2. What was her original name?
3. Who raised Maya?

George Washington Carver

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




George Washington Carver (Jan. 18, 1894 - Jan. 5, 1940) changed agriculture on the farm in the United States. He was a botanist, inventor, and writer. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. What do you think that agriculture means?
2. List three different things that Carver was interested in when he was a child.
3. What was Carver interested in when he was a child?
4. What was his nickname?
5. How can you tell that Carver was a hard worker?
6. What is a botanist?
7. What kind of work did Carver do?
8. Why was Carver more successful than other farmers?

Alice Coachman

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Alice Coachman was born in Albany, Georgia in 1923. Alice was one of ten children. Growing up, things were not easy for Alice. She was often denied opportunities because of the color of her skin. But then, southern schools wouldn't allow athletes of color to use any of their training facilities. Alice earned a scholarship to attend the University of Georgia. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Alice Coachman born?
2. How many children were in Alice's family?
3. What was the reason that Alice was denied many opportunities?

Ruby Bridges

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Ruby Bridges was born on September 8, 1916 in Tallahassee, Florida. Her parents were sharecroppers. That means that they farmed land and gave the landowners part of the profit in return. Her family moved to New Orleans when she was four years old. Her mother worked jobs at a gas station. Ruby and her friends enjoyed playing softball. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Ruby born?
2. What happened to Ruby when she was four?

Michael Jordan

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Michael Jordan was born on February 17, 1963 in New York City. In 1988, his family moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. He enjoyed playing basketball, baseball, and football while growing up. When he did not play sports, he read books and watched movies. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Michael Jordan born?
2. What sports did he enjoy playing?
3. What did Jordan do when he did not make the varsity basketball team?
4. What do you think that a varsity team is?
5. If he trained rigorously, what does that mean?
6. What leads you to think that Jordan was a hard worker?

Barack Obama

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Barack Obama was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 17, 1961. He grew up in Hawaii as well as Jakarta, Indonesia. When he was older, his grandparents raised him in Hawaii. He often went by the nickname "Barry". He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Barack Obama born?
2. What two places did Barack grow up?
3. What was his nickname when he was younger?
4. Why did he decide to attend Harvard Law School?
5. What did he choose to do in 1992?
6. What do you think campaigned means?
7. What do you think that a campaign is?
8. Why would he be president?

Thurgood Marshall

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1898. His father worked as a steward or someone who manages activities at an all-white golf course. His mother was a kindergarten teacher. His grandfather had been enslaved, but escaped from the South to gain his freedom during the Civil War. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Thurgood Marshall born?
2. What was his father's job?
3. Where did his father work?
4. What did his mother do for a living?

Sojourner Truth

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Sojourner Truth was a well-known abolitionist, or someone who wanted to end slavery. Sojourner Truth was born enslaved in Ulster County, New York. Her original name was Isabella Baumfree. She was sold several times in her life. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Sojourner Truth born?
2. What was her original name?
3. Why do you think that she didn't get to pick her own husband?
4. What did she decide to do after she changed her name?
5. What do you think that it means to be an abolitionist?
6. Truth was illiterate. What do you think that illiterate means?
7. Because she was illiterate, why is it so impressive that she accomplished all that she accomplished?
8. Where did she visit in 1842?
9. Who did she visit with in 1842?
10. What do you think Truth and Lincoln had in common?

Madam C.J. Walker

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Madam C.J. Walker's original name was Sarah Breedlove. She was born on December 23, 1867 on the same Delta, Louisiana plantation on which her parents were once enslaved. After the Civil War, her parents became sharecroppers, or people who farm the land of other people and in return, they give them a share of the crops. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Madam C.J. Walker born?
2. What did Madam C.J. Walker do for a living?
3. What were her parents' jobs?
4. What do you think that a sharecropper is?
5. What did Madam C.J. Walker do in 1893?
6. What is the difference between a business and a company?
7. How did Madam C.J. Walker become a millionaire?
8. Why was Madam C.J. Walker successful?
9. How did Madam C.J. Walker help other women?

Jackie Robinson

Read the passage below and answer the questions.




Jackie Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia on January 31, 1918. He was the youngest of five children. His father left his family after Jackie was born and he never saw him again. His mother raised him and his siblings, and he grew up in Pasadena, California. His brother became a track star. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Jackie Robinson born?
2. How many children were in his family?
3. What were his parents' jobs?
4. What do you think that a sharecropper is?
5. What did Jackie Robinson do in 1947?
6. What is the difference between a business and a company?
7. How did Jackie Robinson become a millionaire?
8. Why was Jackie Robinson successful?
9. How did Jackie Robinson help other people?

Serena Williams

Read the passage below and answer the questions.



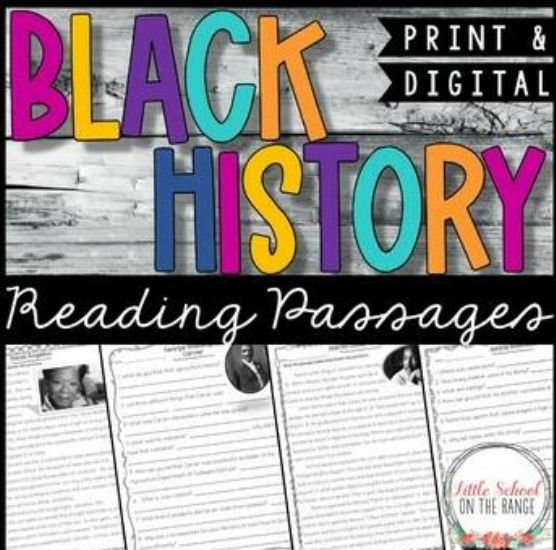
Serena Jameka Williams was born in Saginaw, Michigan in 1981. She is the youngest daughter in her family. When she was young, her family moved to Compton, California. This is where she started playing tennis at the age of four. Her father home-schooled her and her sister, Venus. Her mother and father were her primary coaches. At the age of nine, her family moved to West Palm Beach, Florida so that she could attend a tennis academy or school there. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society. She was also a member of the American Philosophical Society.

1. Where was Serena Williams born?
2. What was her original name?
3. Why do you think that she didn't get to pick her own husband?
4. What did she decide to do after she changed her name?
5. What do you think that it means to be an athlete?
6. Truth was illiterate. What do you think that illiterate means?
7. Because she was illiterate, why is it so impressive that she accomplished all that she accomplished?
8. Where did she visit in 1842?
9. Who did she visit with in 1842?
10. What do you think Truth and Lincoln had in common?

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Little School ON THE RANGE

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