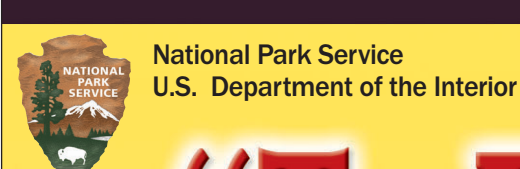


GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

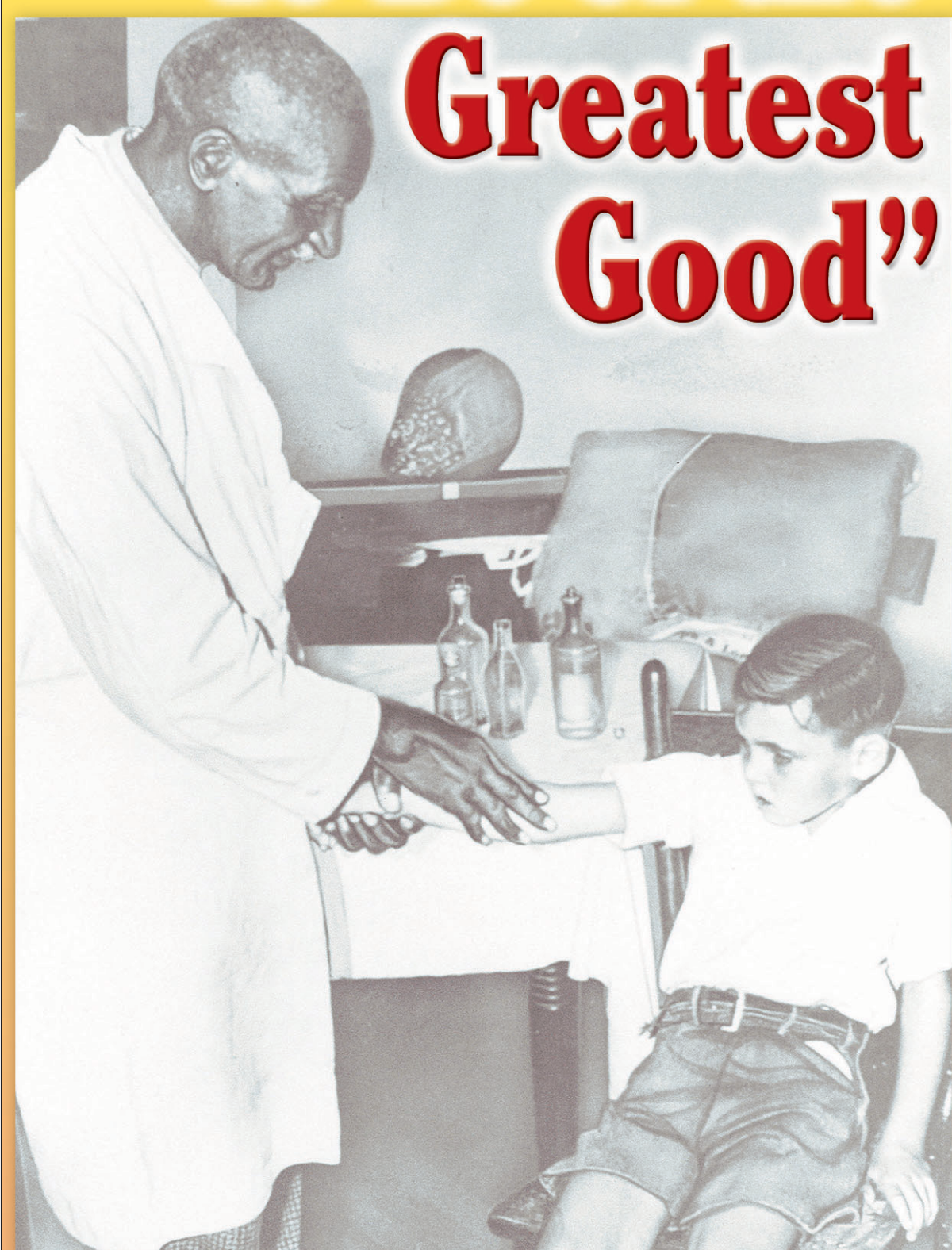
The Life & The Legacy

A Newspaper In Education Project with The George Washington Carver National Monument

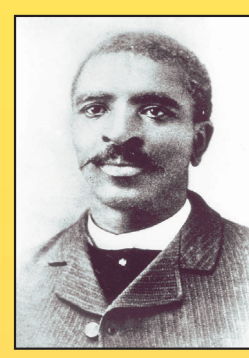


George Washington Carver National Monument is located two miles west of Diamond, Mo. on V Highway, then south on Carver Road. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily • (417) 325-4151

“To Be of the Greatest Good”



George Washington Carver massages peanut oil on the arm of a young polio patient



“You doubtless know that I came here solely for the benefit of my people, no other motive in view.”

— George Washington Carver after arriving at Tuskegee Institute

For George Washington Carver, 1896 was an exciting year. He graduated from Iowa State College with a master’s degree in agriculture. He was arguably one of the most educated African-Americans of his day.

The future held promise for Carver, but he had some important decisions to make. Although he had received several job offers, an offer from Booker T. Washington, president of Alabama’s **Tuskegee Institute**, is the one that captured George’s attention.

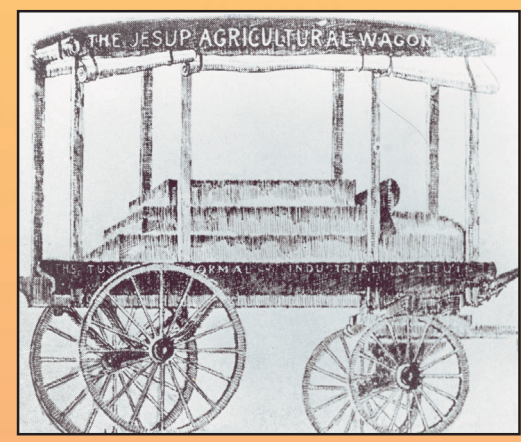
In the letter, Washington stated: *“I cannot offer you money, position or fame. The first two you have. The last, from the place you now occupy, you will no doubt achieve. These things I now ask you to give up. I offer you in their place work — hard, hard work — the task of bringing a people from **degradation**, poverty and waste to full manhood.”*

As he considered his choices, Carver remembered that Mariah Watkins, his **mentor** while he attended school in Neosho, had told him to share his knowledge with his people. Carver accepted Washington’s offer to move to Alabama and teach at Tuskegee Institute.

Writing back to Washington, Carver stated: *“Of course it has always been the one great ideal of my life to be of the greatest good to the greatest number of ‘my people’ possible, and to this end I have been preparing myself for these many years...”*

During his **career** at Tuskegee, Carver did exactly what Washington asked him to do. He taught college classes, served as director of the department of agriculture, and wrote articles for local newspapers and magazines. He published agricultural bulletins and gave speeches. He designed the Jesup Wagon, a mobile school that traveled the countryside around Tuskegee to teach those who could not attend classes.

During this time, Carver spread the word about the many uses of the peanut. Throughout the south, farmers planted cotton, a crop which depletes the soil of its nutrients. But Carver taught southern farmers to also plant peanuts, a crop that puts nutrients back into the soil.



The Jesup Wagon as drawn by Carver

Through this practice, called **crop rotation**, farmers were able to preserve their soil and keep it from wearing out.

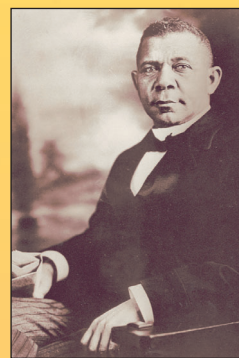
Carver also shared more than 300 uses for the peanut plant. With this information, the farmers could sell their peanut crop at market and make money.

Because of Carver’s teachings, thousands of southern farm families improved their lives and became more self-sufficient. With the money they earned from the peanut crops, they were able to buy land and farm equipment, pay bills and get out of debt.

Of all uses of the peanut plant that Carver discovered, one of most impressive was the use of peanut oil massage for children with infantile **paralysis**, or polio. Carver discovered that massaging weak muscles with peanut oil helped the children regain use of their arms and legs. Soon, many people were coming to Carver for treatment.

Carver also believed part of his life’s mission was to mentor others. During the 1920s, while traveling on the Commission for Interracial Cooperation, Carver mentored numerous young men - nicknamed “Carver boys” - and gave speeches promoting understanding and harmony among people of all races.

When Carver first accepted Washington’s offer to come to Tuskegee, he may not have realized how long he would be there. As it turned out, George Washington Carver spent 47 years at Tuskegee Institute - the rest of his life - working to be the greatest good to the greatest number of people.



Booker T. Washington

Vocabulary

Degradation - Way of life without dignity, health, or social comforts
Tuskegee Institute - The Alabama school for African-Americans where George worked
Mentor - Somebody, usually older and more experienced, who provides advice and support to, and watches over the

progress of a younger, less experienced person
Career - A job that people have after receiving education and training
Paralysis - Loss of voluntary movement as a result of damage to nerve or muscle function
Crop Rotation - A system of growing successive crops with different food requirements to prevent soil depletion

Writing Corner

As you have already learned, a mentor is someone who is usually older and more experienced who can give you advice and support. Most importantly, a mentor is someone who is extremely trustworthy. Lots of people already have mentors, even though they may not realize it. Can you think of anyone in your life who fits the description of a mentor?
 ■ Write a paragraph describing this person and why you think he or she would make a good mentor.

Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the words from the article and then use the corresponding numbers to fill in the blanks at the bottom.

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| RATECHE | <input type="text"/> | 8 |
| SYPLARSIA | <input type="text"/> | 13 |
| RTMENO | <input type="text"/> | 1 |
| GEEGOR NOAWHSINTG RAVCER | <input type="text"/> | 20 10 14 2 |
| TAEDOIGARDN | <input type="text"/> | 15 21 7 |
| FILE FO VIERECS | <input type="text"/> | 6 16 |
| BLIEMO COSHOL | <input type="text"/> | 19 3 12 |
| TEKSEGEU SINTEUTIT | <input type="text"/> | 4 18 9 17 |
| RCRAEV SYBO | <input type="text"/> | 5 |
| RAHD WKRO | <input type="text"/> | 11 |

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

A Life of Service

George Washington Carver earned his education and then spent the rest of his life using it to serve others. He once said: *“It is simply service that measures success.”*

Many people volunteer their time and energy to help someone else. If you are willing to work, it is not hard to find someone in need!

Challenge: Get a bunch of friends together, such as your class, your youth group, your Boy or Girl Scout troop, or any other group you know. Ask your leader to help you find a project that your whole group could do to serve someone else!

Show-Me Standards: CA 1, G 2.1; CA 3, G 1.5; SS 6, G 1.9 • National Science Standards: K-4 History: 1.2.2, 2.1.6, 5-12 History: 4.2.2

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Coming April 11: Why the Humble Peanut?

