

Name _____

Date _____



George Washington Carver & Innovation

“Inventor, Teacher and Friend to Farmers”

Three names: George Washington Carver,

The dude knew this stuff.

Three names: George Washington Carver,

Does your farm need help?

I said three names: George Washington Carver,

When things got tough, George just tried harder.

He was born a slave in 1864,

Near the end of the American Civil War.

Back then it was much harder for black people,

Because they weren't treated like they were equal

To white people, but George Washington Carver,

Was ambitious and tough like armor.

He was the first black student to graduate

From a science and tech college called Iowa State.

At school he studied agriculture,

That's the science of farming, he took it much farther.

He knew exactly how to care for the crops,

And he loved to do it, so that's what he taught.

Yeah, he was a teacher at Tuskegee,

A historically black school, he made a mark like graffiti.

Down in Alabama, he worked with Southern farms,

Because he knew that growing cotton left the soil harmed.

It took out the nutrients crops needed to grow,

So he planted peanuts and sweet potatoes.

Ayo! This system's called crop rotation,

It helped small farms and the big plantations.
These new crops made the soil rich,
The nutrients returned thanks to Carver's switch.

Three names: George Washington Carver,
Inventor, teacher and friend to farmers.
Crop rotations with sweet potatoes and peanuts,
When it came to farming, George was a genius.

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We know that thanks to crop rotation,
When farms weren't thriving, Carver saved them.
He even built a school on wheels,
To teach his methods to farmers out in the fields.
Now, maybe you're wondering what the farmers did
With all the potatoes and peanuts they had to dig!
Dig! Carver came up with many solutions,
Ways farmers could eat, drink and use them:
Like peanut paint and peanut candy,
Peanut soap, that came in handy.
Sweet potatoes had uses, too:
Milk, shampoo and a type of glue.
At 80 years old, Carver passed away,
But he's still admired and celebrated today.
He inspires students in science.
George Washington Carver: an agricultural giant!

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