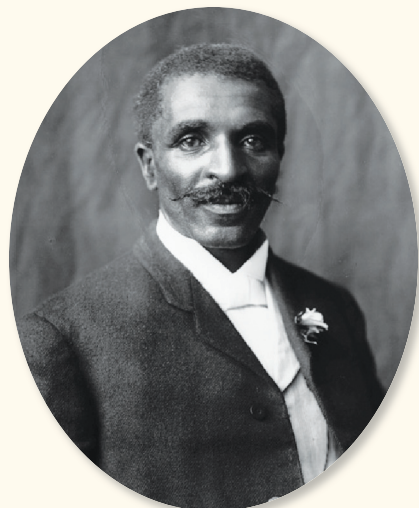


SPOTLIGHT ON

# George Washington Carver



George Washington Carver, 1906. From the Frances Benjamin Johnston Collection, Library of Congress. Reproduction no. LC-J601-302.

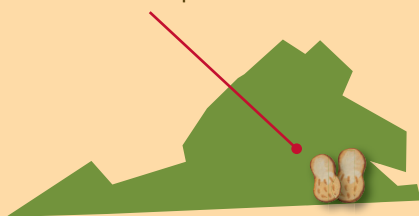
**G**eorge Washington Carver was born the son of slaves around 1864 in Missouri. From a very young age he was intrigued by nature, and his peers called him the “Plant Doctor.” At age 12 he moved to a new town all by himself so he could attend a school for black children, because the school in his town would not admit him.

Carver held many jobs so that he could go to school and save for college; by 30 he had saved enough. In college he chose to study agriculture. After college he taught at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There he taught his students and black farmers how to make their crops grow better.

Most of the farmers Carver worked with grew cotton, but each year their cotton crop kept getting worse. That was because the cotton was taking too much nitrogen out of the soil. Carver taught the farmers to grow other crops such as sweet potatoes and peanuts, which put good stuff back into the soil. He also showed people that peanuts could be used to make many different things, including lotion, shampoo, glue, paint and ink. In fact, he demonstrated more than 300 uses for the peanut!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

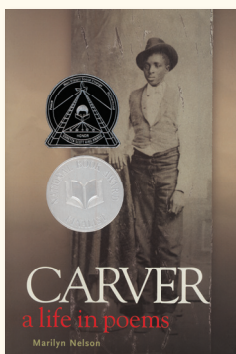
Virginia peanuts are grown in the southeastern part of the state.



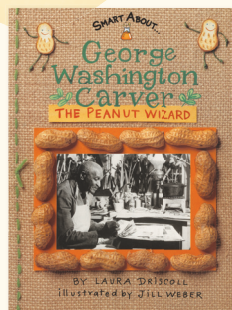
**DID YOU KNOW?**

Peanuts are part of a healthy diet! They are good sources of protein and fiber.

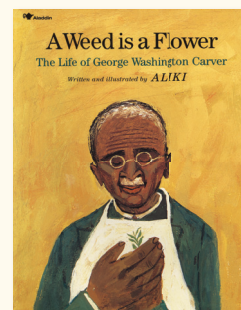
## BOOK NOOK—RECOMMENDED READING



**Carver: A Life in Poems**  
by Marilyn Nelson



**George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard**  
by Laura Driscoll



**A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver**  
by Aliko



**Parents and Teachers:** Want more great book ideas? Visit [AgInTheClass.org](http://AgInTheClass.org) to find Agriculture in the Classroom’s comprehensive book list.

### Word search

The words in the **Word Bank** below are all things that George Washington Carver made using peanuts. Find those words in the puzzle (Puzzle key on Page 29).

M A Y O N N A I S E S O Q M R  
 N K G O M T L L I H V U A P U  
 N O N L N D P T A H P E A E O  
 I A I I U O K M F X R S X D L  
 Y L A T M E P J P C L X B Z F  
 I P D W O O D H G M P D W A I  
 L C B Q O L F N S R R M P W P  
 Q I T Y D V I X P N J P T V K  
 W U N F A V E Y L A W X C T K  
 H Z F O A X E H A I Q I S G R  
 K U Y H L V K O S M P O C T C  
 M R S P I E T H T P A P E R M  
 E E F F O C U Y I P Y F C Z I  
 Q W D F G G O M C Q E H G E L  
 K N I X N P J A H I L H I Z K

### Word Bank:

- Coffee
- Flour
- Glue
- Ink
- Linoleum
- Lotion
- Mayonnaise
- Milk
- Paint
- Paper
- Plastic
- Shampoo
- Shaving cream
- Soap

### WHAT'S COOKING



**TRY THIS!**

## Peanut butter treat

**Make your own peanut butter for a tasty treat! Remember to ask an adult to help you use the blender.**

### Materials needed:

- measuring cup
- measuring spoon
- spoon
- blender
- 1 cup salted, roasted peanuts
- 1½ teaspoons peanut oil



### Directions:

1. Measure 1 cup peanuts, and put them in the blender.
2. Measure 1½ teaspoons peanut oil, and put that in the blender with the peanuts.
3. Blend for about 3 minutes.
4. Scrape the mixture down off the sides of the blender with your spoon, and blend for another 3 minutes.
5. Enjoy your peanut butter with toast, carrots, celery, an English muffin, apple slices or crackers!



## Peanut facts

- The peanut plant probably originated in Brazil and Peru.
- Peanuts are not nuts. In fact, the peanut is a legume and is an underground pea—a member of the bean family. The technical English name for the peanut is groundnut, because it grows underground.
- Runner, Spanish, Valencia and Virginia are the four basic varieties of peanuts grown in the United States. Virginia peanuts are grown in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and are the largest U.S. variety.
- It takes about 540 peanuts to make one 12-ounce jar of peanut butter. One acre of peanuts will make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches (An acre is about the size of a football field).
- Creamy or chunky? In general, women and children prefer creamy peanut butter while men say they like crunchy.

### A PEANUT SAT ON A RAILROAD TRACK

(Sung to the tune of "Pop Goes the Weasel")

A peanut sat on a railroad track.  
 Its heart was all a-flutter.  
 A train came chugging down the track—Whoops! Peanut Butter!

