

The Peanut Wizard

Standards of Learning

Social Studies 1.2

English 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.12, 1.13

Objective

Students will:

- Describe the contributions of George Washington Carver

Materials

- *George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard* by Laura Driscoll
- George Washington Carver: Look What He Did! sheet (handout provided)
- Lined sheet of paper (one for each student)

Background Knowledge

This lesson focuses on the life and work of George Washington Carver. Students will learn about his scientific discoveries that changed the world of agriculture for many farmers. He developed over 300 products from peanuts, but did not make peanut butter. Peanuts are a good source of protein and can be used to make many different items. Furthermore, he developed over 100 things made from potatoes. Potatoes are a good source of carbohydrates and can also be used to make a number of items. Additionally, George Washington Carver's research found that soybeans are a valuable source of oil and protein. Soybeans are a good source of protein and they are an important part of many foods and products. Peanuts and soybeans are legumes. Legumes are plants that put nitrogen back into the soil. Legumes can be used in crop rotation to soil that has been depleted of nitrogen. Plants need nitrogen to grow.

Procedure

1. Ask the students the following questions.
 - Who likes to eat peanut butter?
 - Does anyone know what peanut butter is made from?
 - Do you know who did a lot of work to show everyone that peanuts are good to eat?
2. Tell the students that today they will be talking about George Washington Carver and his work with peanuts and other important plants.
3. Read the book, *George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard*, aloud to the class.
4. While reading, ask the following questions in reference to the page(s) listed.
 - This book was written as a report by a student. What is it about? (Page 1)
A famous scientist
 - What was George Washington Carver's nickname? (Page 2)
The Peanut Wizard
 - George Washington Carver was born a slave. What does that mean? (Page 2)
He was owned by another person
 - What did people call George when he was younger? (Pages 6-7)
The Plant Doctor
 - What are the parts of this daisy plant? (Page 8)
Read them aloud with the students



- What are two things plants need to grow? (Page 9)
Sunlight and water
 - What did George Washington Carver study in college? (Page 14)
Soil
 - What did all the farmers grow on their farms? (Pages 20-21)
Cotton
 - Why was this not working? (Pages 20-21)
Cotton was not growing well
 - What did George tell the farmers to do? (Page 23)
Grow different crops, like peanuts and potatoes
 - Why should they do this? (Page 23)
These crops put good stuff back into the soil
 - How did George help farmers sell peanuts and potatoes?
He made hundreds of products from peanuts and potatoes
5. After reading the book, give each student a piece of lined paper.
 6. Ask the students to write 2-3 sentences on something they learned about George Washington Carver.
 7. After all the students are finished writing, ask some students to share their sentences with the class.
 8. When students are done sharing, hand out a George Washington Carver: Look What He Did!, sheet to each student.
 9. Tell the students to look at the words and pictures on the sheet. Ask them to read the words aloud as a class. They can use the pictures for help in recognizing the words.
 10. Have students look around the classroom and circle any items from the worksheet that they see in the room.
 11. Have students draw a square around items that they have at home (some items can have a circle and a square around them).
 12. After reading the sheet, ask the students if they know anything else that can be made from peanuts, soybeans, or potatoes.
 13. Tell the students to draw a picture of any of these items on the back of their worksheet.
 14. After drawing pictures, organize the students into partners.
 15. Ask one of the students in the pair to tell their partner one thing they learned about George Washington Carver today.
 16. Then, ask the other partner to share something different that they learned.

Extension

- Bring in additional objects from home and have students categorize them by what they are made from (peanuts, potatoes, or soybeans).
- Visit www.aboutpeanuts.com for additional lessons and activities on peanuts!

References

Virginia-Carolina Peanuts. www.aboutpeanuts.com.

Driscoll, L. (2003). *George Washington Carver: The Peanut Wizard*. New York, NY: Grosset & Dunlap. ISBN: 0-448-43243-9



Look What He Did!

Name: _____ Date: _____

George Washington Carver found that many things can be made with peanuts.

PEANUTS

Hand lotion



Paint



Ink



Glue



Soap



Crayons



Shampoo



Coffee



George Washington Carver found that many things can be made with potatoes.

POTATOES

Paper



Dye



Rubber



Flour



Medicine



Ink



George Washington Carver found that soybeans are a good source of oil and protein.

SOYBEANS

Oil



Protein



Protein helps you grow strong.

Peanuts, potatoes, and soybeans are all grown in Virginia!

