

Name _____

George Washington Carver

Learn about George Washington Carver

Read the paragraph below and then answer the questions that follow.

George Washington Carver was born a slave in the state of Missouri around 1864. As a boy, his chores were cooking and sewing, but he really loved working in the garden. He taught himself to read, but he wanted an education, so he left home to attend a black school. As a young man, he was accepted into a college, but when he arrived they rejected him because of his color. Finally, at the ripe old age of 30, he was accepted at a college in Iowa. He later transferred to Iowa State University where he majored in botany, the study of plants. George was such a great student of botany that he was asked to teach after he graduated. Later on, he was invited to head the Agricultural Department at the Tuskegee Institute, where he stayed for 47 years. George turned the department into a strong research center, coming up with all kinds of uses for various crops, finding ways to help farmers fight crop disease, improve soil, and much, much more. He became one of the world's most respected botany experts and travelled often to speak about such things as peanuts, Tuskegee and racial harmony. George Washington Carver died in 1943.

Questions:

What did George love to do as a young boy?

Why did George have a hard time getting accepted into a college?

How old was George when he was finally accepted at a college in Iowa?

What subject did George study, and later teach, at Iowa State University?

Where did George head the Agricultural Department for 47 years?
