

Social Studies

W.E.B. Du Bois

Activist, journalist, sociologist



William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in 1868. Du Bois' father left the family before his second birthday, and his mother suffered a stroke when Du Bois was still a young child. He was forced to work to support himself and his mother, who could no longer work following her stroke. Despite this hardship, Du Bois remained focused on his studies, believing that his education could better their lives. He earned a degree from Fisk University, a historically African-American college in Nashville, Tennessee, then received a scholarship to Harvard. In 1895, he became the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

He taught at the university level for several years, then went to work at Atlanta University, now called Clark Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia. He created the university's department of social work, which exists today as the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work. He became founder and editor of the NAACP's journal, *The Crisis*, which published African-American writers, including some who wrote during the Harlem Renaissance. He argued against Booker T. Washington's belief that African-Americans should accept segregation and the idea that they could be "separate but equal."

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- Du Bois worked to disprove the theory that African-Americans were biologically inferior to white Americans, called _____ racism. **SCIENCE FI**
- Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP, the National Association for the _____ of Colored People. **NTDVRREADMNC**
- In 1950, Du Bois ran for U.S. _____ from New York as a member of the American Labor Party. **EDSRNAT**



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