

## George Washington Carver – The Real Mr. Peanut

### Junior Inventors

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### George Washington Carver – The Real Mr. Peanut

#### CLOZE Activity – reading for meaning

Without peeking back at the article, complete the story of George Washington Carver by adding in some missing words. The words to choose from are listed at the bottom of the story. When completed, compare your answers with the website article. How did you go?



George Washington Carver, known as the 'Plant Doctor', was \_\_\_\_\_ in Missouri in 1861. He was a famous African American botanist/inventor who developed new, practical farming \_\_\_\_\_ that used peanuts, soybeans, and sweet potatoes as an alternative to cotton to improve the livelihood of impoverished families.

By 1880, Carver invented not one but three hundred different ways to use peanuts, including plastics, paints, dyes and bio fuel. So why doesn't anyone have an \_\_\_\_\_ list of all the things he invented? Well, Carver didn't \_\_\_\_\_ in patents or fame; he felt it was his duty as an inventor to contribute to society by making knowledge freely available to everyone.

By the \_\_\_\_\_ 1900's, Carver made \_\_\_\_\_ a significant crop in the southern USA. His contributions were so vast that commemorative postal stamps in 1948, 1998 as well as half dollar coins minted between 1951 and 1954 were created in his name. \_\_\_\_\_, some schools and even a garden (Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis) were founded on his behalf.

Carver's greatest contribution \_\_\_\_\_ just peanuts. Instead, he will be remembered for his influence - believing in the life changing potential of education and the idea that \_\_\_\_\_ if you're born into the most unfortunate circumstances, you can overcome them with a proper education.

believe	Additionally	peanuts
early	born	methods
even	wasn't	accurate



Junior Inventors activity sheet © Skoolbo 2015



The video to accompany this activity can be found at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sdz8XTNttdc>

## Lesson Sequence:

**Provocation:** Brainstorm all the different spreads people use on slices of bread, and come up with some rather unusual sandwich fillers!

**Discuss** ways in which people may have stumbled on some of these food options. (Who came up with the idea to mash strawberries into a jam? What is Marmite? Where did hummus originate from?)

**Finding Out:** Introduce your class to George Washington Carver. Share read the article and watch the first video.

**Activity Sheet:** Students complete the cloze activity, checking back with the article to see if their answers are correct.

## TIPS TO SUPERCHARGE YOUR LESSON

**Compare and evaluate the content of what we read and watch – What important messages are conveyed?**

**View the second video.** Compare the contents to the first video and the article. What is different? What information about Carver is emphasised more in this second video? (Emphasis is placed on the struggles Carver overcame to succeed, his mission to help others and his reasons for doing so rather than just key facts and achievements about plant products.)

### Get Creative!

**Invent a new type of spread!** Describe the process of turning the natural ingredients into a new, wacky, delicious lunch option!

Share the classes' illustrations and recipes and combine to make a Wacky Sandwich Spreads book for your classroom library!

