

公众号: Wecancan

LEVEL
1

National Geographic Readers: George Washington Carver

By: Kitson Jazynka

Yum! Meet the inventor of peanut butter, George Washington Carver, and learn about his important work with peanuts and other plants.

5-7	15-30 mins	570L	3.3
Age Range	Length	Lexile [®] Measure	AR Level

George Washington Carver

Kitson Jazynka

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Washington, D.C.

Dear Parents,

Children are naturally curious about the world around them, and curiosity is a powerful motivation for reading. Studies show that informational reading is critical to success in school. National Geographic Kids Readers allow you to feed your children's interests and create readers who not only can read, but also want to read!

To sustain children's excitement about reading, we have created a special program called **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS SUPER READERS**. As kids read each National Geographic Kids Reader, they cross off its picture on a free National Geographic Kids Super Readers poster that parents can download from kids.nationalgeographic.com/superreaders.

Throughout the process, kids and parents go to the website and download specially designated prizes that reward their effort. Kids can have even more reading fun online, with lively book-related activities, quizzes and games, fascinating excerpts, and sneak previews of upcoming books.

The National Geographic Kids Super Readers program appeals to kids' love of accomplishment while providing them with incentives to keep reading. When the reading experience is fun, children learn more and achieve more. What could be better than that?

Sincerely,



Mariam Jean Dreher
Professor of Reading Education
University of Maryland, College Park

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Who Was Carver?

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George Washington Carver loved studying plants. He showed farmers how to grow sustainable (suh-STANE-uh-bul) crops. That helped them farm better and eat better.

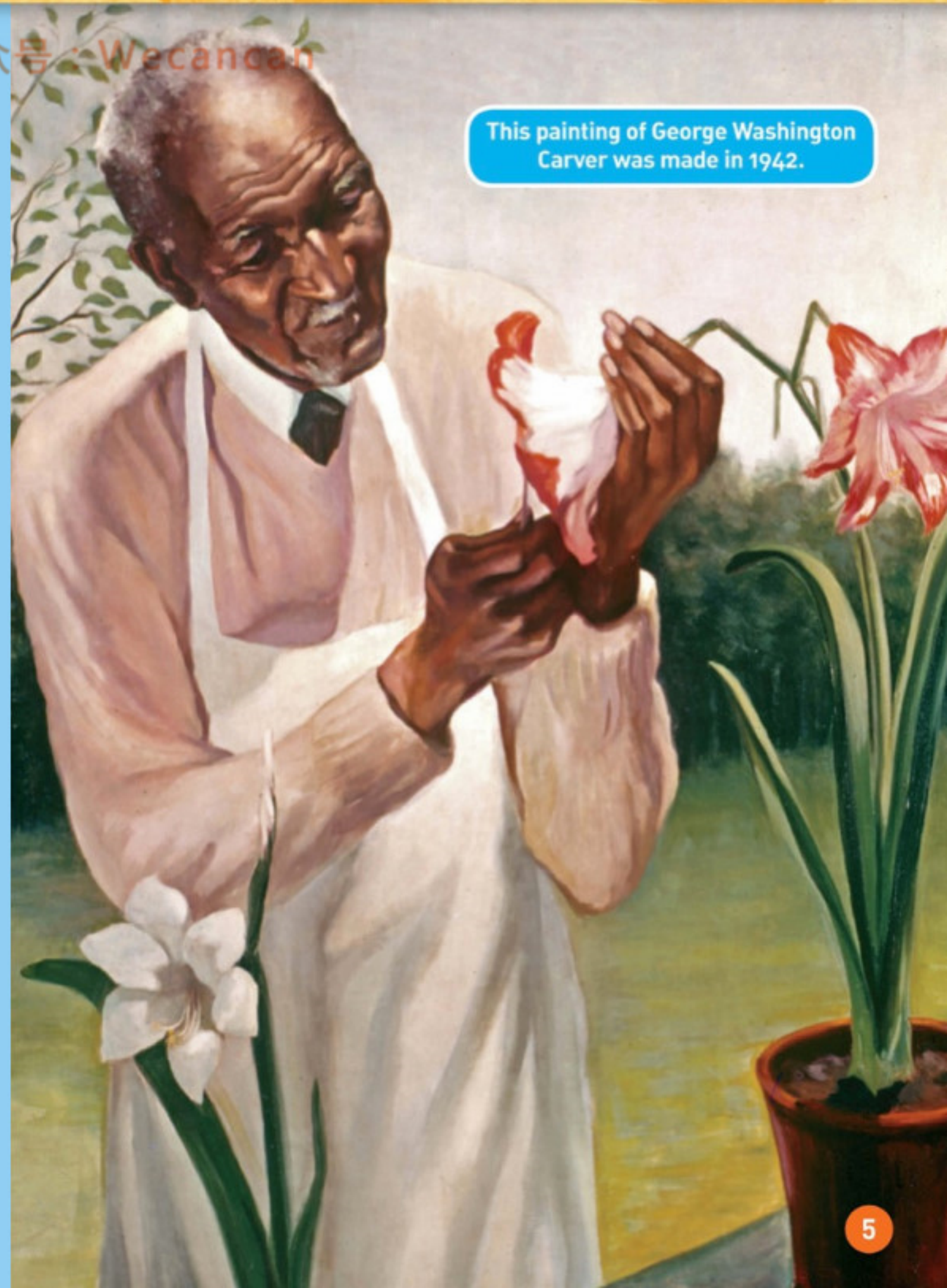
He also found that hundreds of things could be made from peanut plants. Growing peanuts helped farmers earn money.

Words to Know

SUSTAINABLE:
Grown in a way that
keeps the soil healthy



This painting of George Washington Carver was made in 1942.



Many black farmers were too poor to buy their own land. Instead, they had to rent it. They paid the owner a share of their crops.



In Carver's time, life was hard for many black people in the United States. They did not have the same rights as white people.

Carver felt that this was wrong. He used his ideas about farming to help change people's lives.

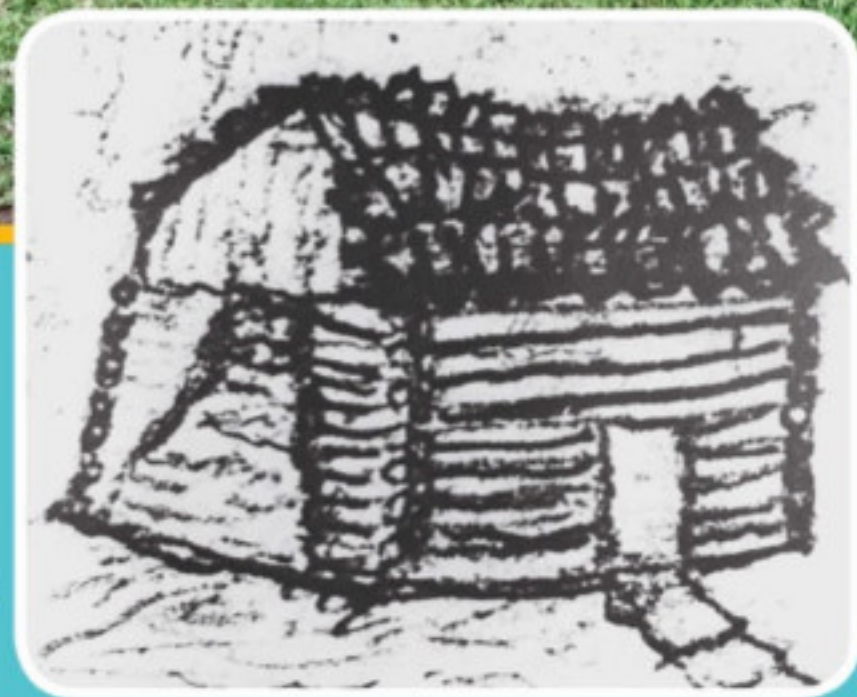


Carver was one of the most famous African Americans of his time.

Growing Up



The cabin where Carver lived as a boy is gone. This outline (photo above) was built later to show how small it was. This sketch (right) was drawn by Carver. It shows how he remembers the cabin.



George Washington Carver was born on a farm near Diamond, Missouri, U.S.A.

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Most people think he was born around 1864. No one knows for sure. But we do know he was born a slave.

Back then, slaves were often given their owner's last name. George's owners were Moses and Susan Carver. So his last name was Carver too.

Words to Know

SLAVE: A person who is owned by another person





This statue shows Carver as a boy. It stands at the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Missouri. This was the first national monument to honor an African American.

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One night, men kidnapped baby George Carver and his mother. He was returned to the farm, but his mother was not.

Soon after, slavery ended. Moses and Susan Carver decided to raise George. As a boy, he loved to explore the farm. He collected rocks. He grew a garden. He asked questions.



In His Own Words

"When I talk to the little flower or to the little peanut, they will give up their secrets."

In His Time

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Carver grew up in the midwestern United States during the 1870s.

Back then, many things were different from how they are today.

TRANSPORTATION:

Many people traveled on foot, in wagons pulled by horses, or by steamboat or train.



MONEY: Most freed slaves had little or no money. They often traded for things they needed.



FOOD: Few people shopped in stores for food. Instead, they raised farm animals. They also grew fruits and vegetables to feed their families.



SCHOOL: Children went to school in one-room schoolhouses or even old barns.



U.S. EVENTS: In 1872, Ulysses S. Grant was re-elected president of the United States.

TOYS AND FUN:

Children spent time outdoors and played with handmade toys.



A Love of Learning

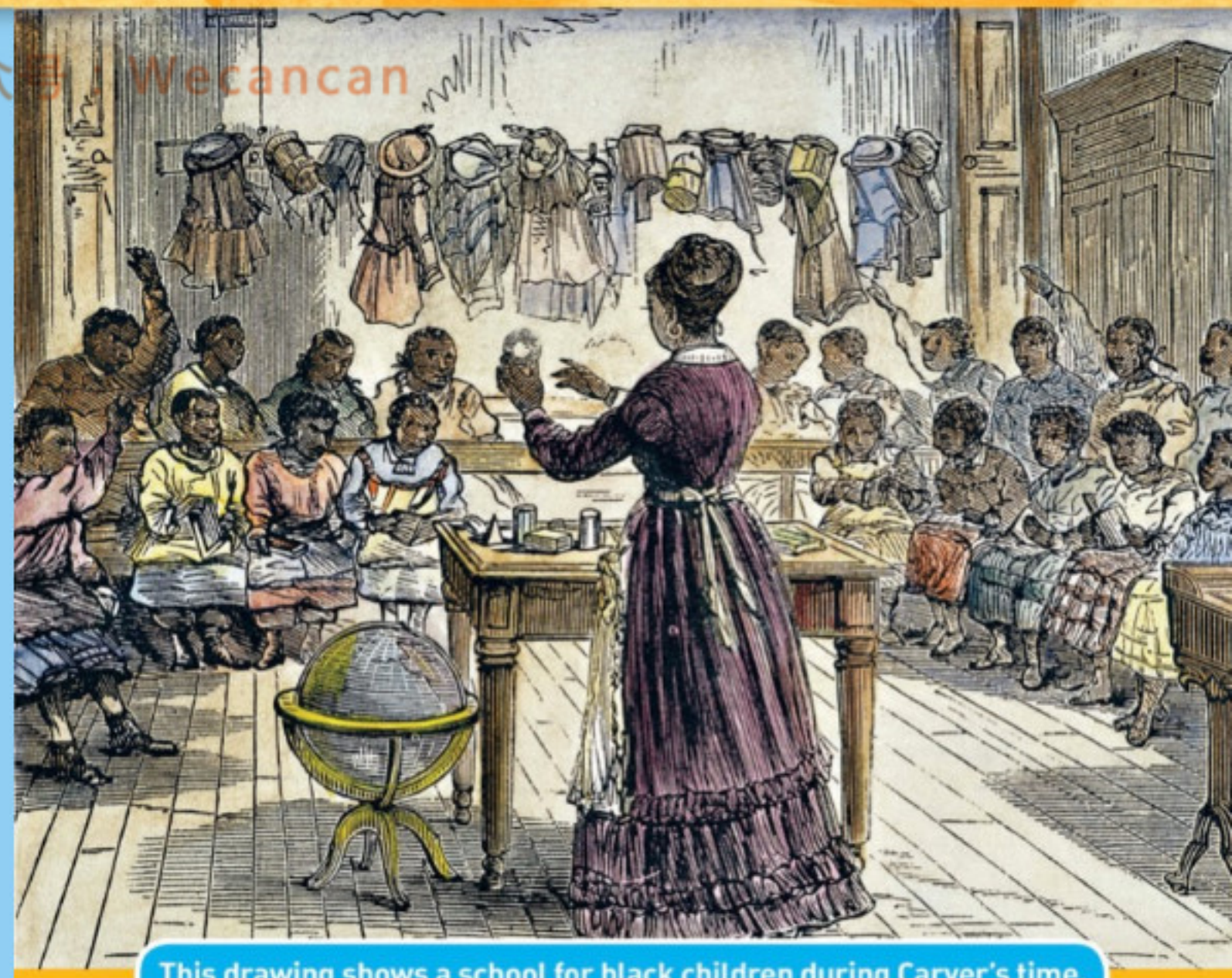
Carver loved to learn. But in his town, black children could not go to school. Carver learned to read at home. He had only one book.



In His Own Words

"My soul thirsted for an education."

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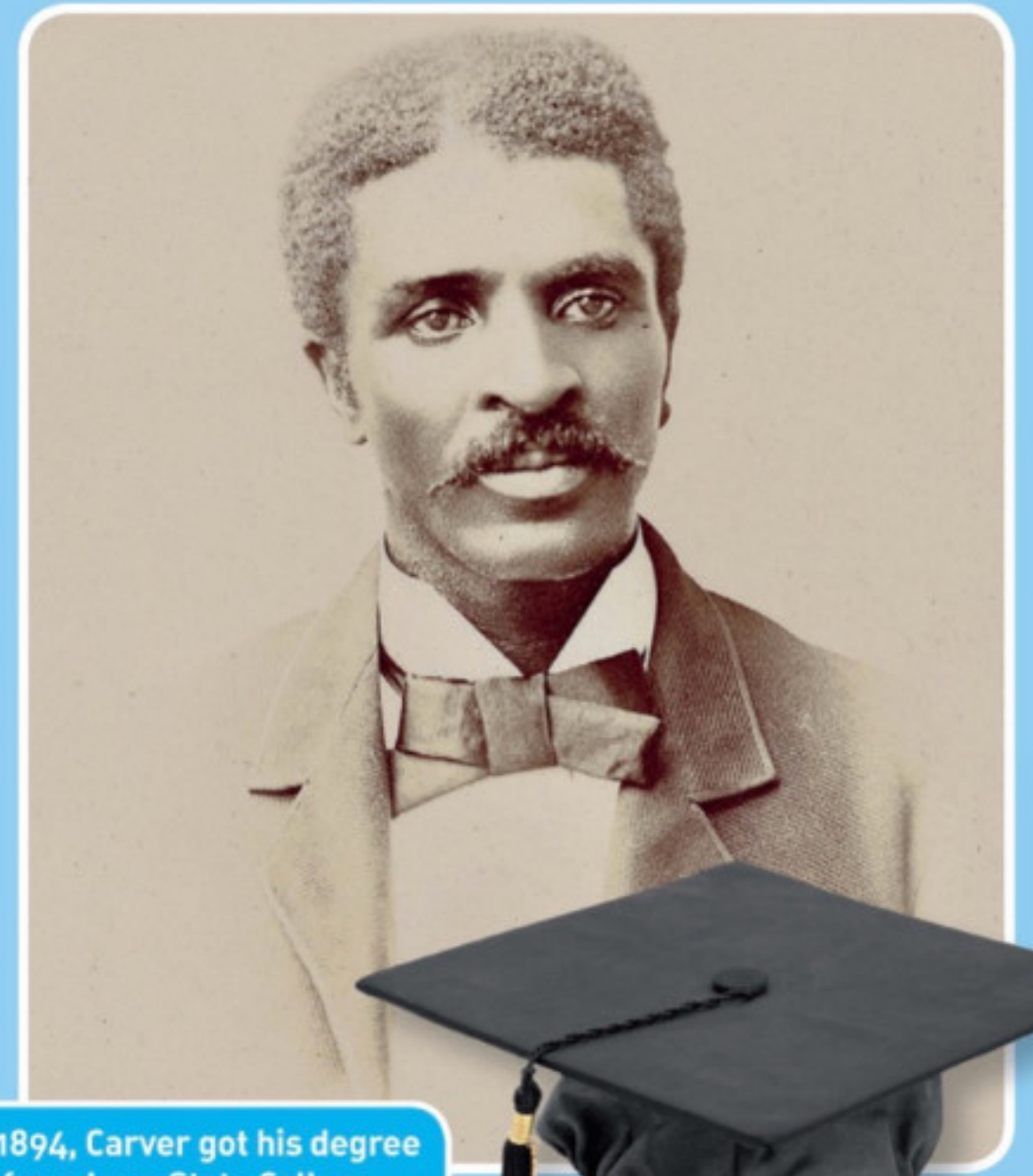


This drawing shows a school for black children during Carver's time.

Carver wanted to learn more. At around age 13, he left home. He lived with a black family in a nearby town. There he went to a school for black children.

Later, Carver wanted to go to college. Many black Americans still faced racism (RAY-siz-um). One school would not let Carver in because he was black.

But he didn't give up. He became the first black student at Iowa State College. He studied agriculture (AG-ri-kul-chur).




In 1894, Carver got his degree from Iowa State College (shown below).



Words to Know

RACISM: The belief that one group of people is better than another

AGRICULTURE: The science of farming



6 COOL FACTS About Carver

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Carver added "Washington" to his name because another George Carver lived in his town.



Carver grew up on a farm with horses, cattle, honeybees, and wheat crops.



Carver loved art. He made paint from berries. He tied twigs together for a brush.

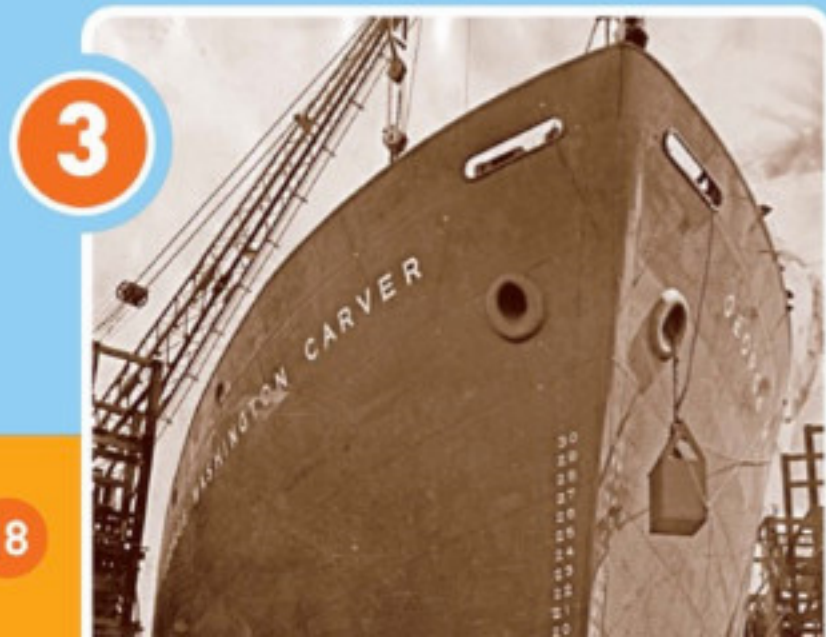
As a boy, Carver helped people with their sick plants. They called him the "plant doctor."



Three U.S. presidents asked for Carver's advice on farming.



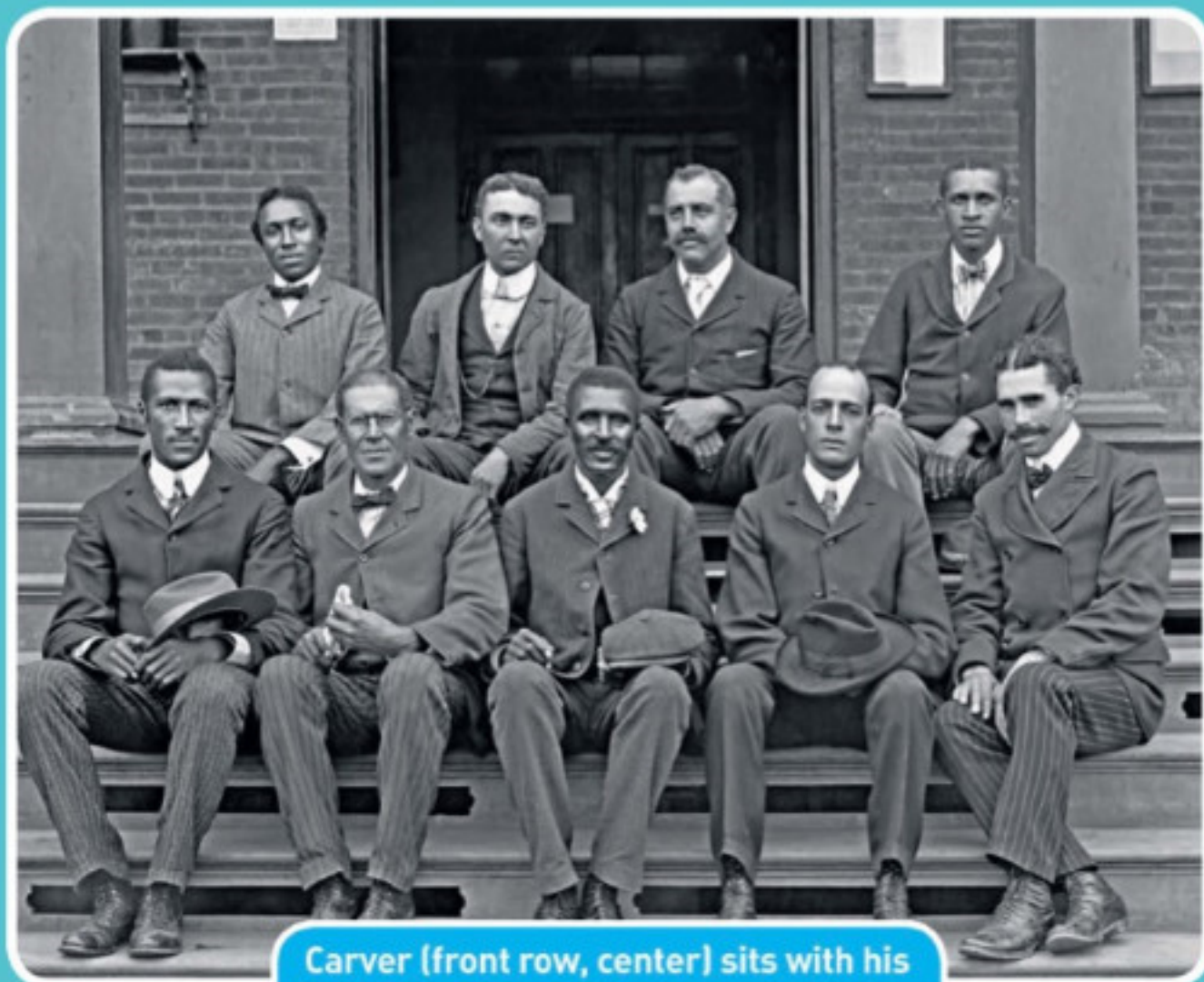
Carver meeting President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939



The U.S. Navy named two ships after Carver.

Helping Others

After college, Carver became a teacher. He worked at a school in Alabama called Tuskegee Institute (tuh-SKEE-gee IN-stuh-toot).



Carver (front row, center) sits with his fellow teachers at Tuskegee Institute.

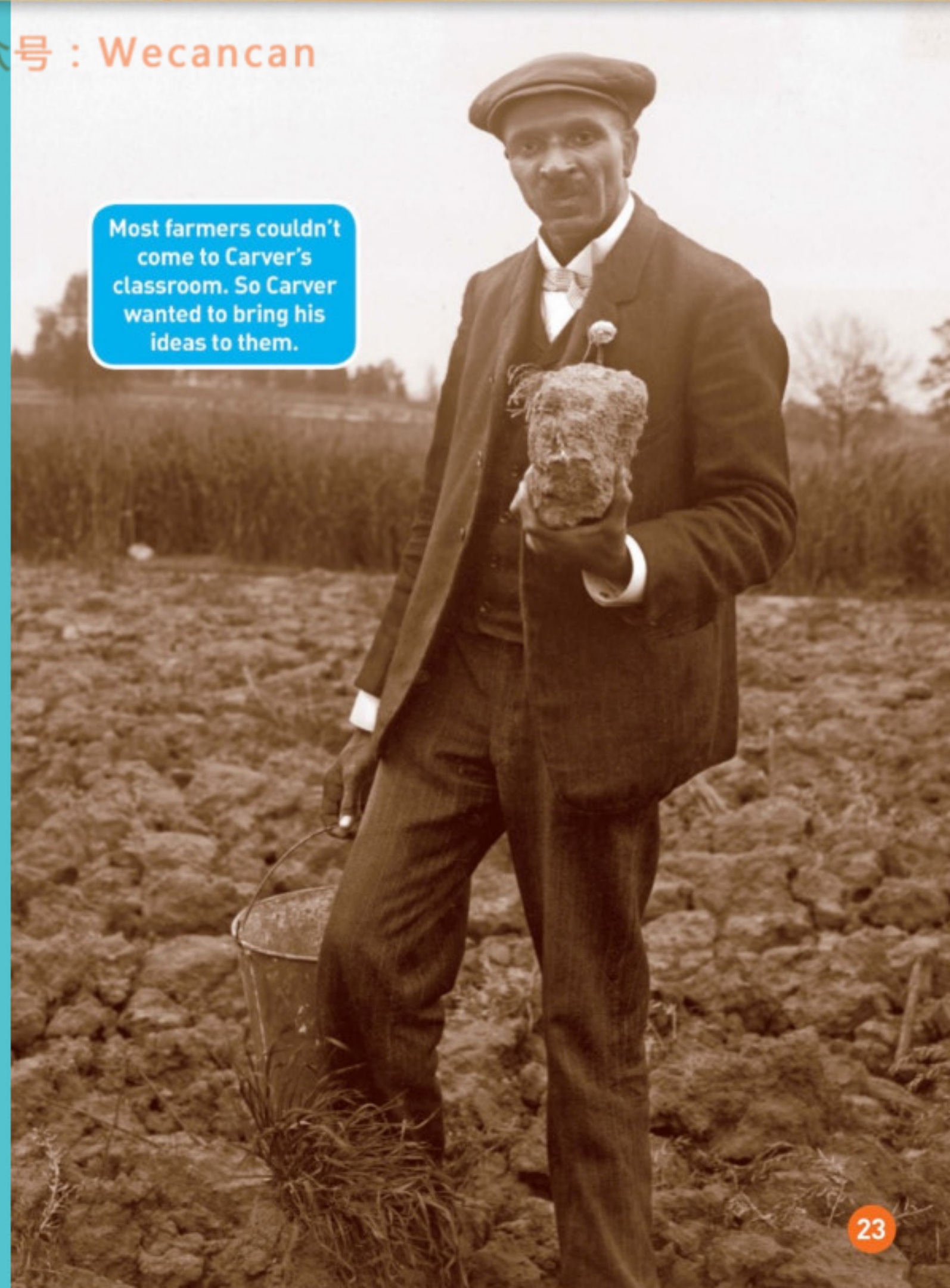
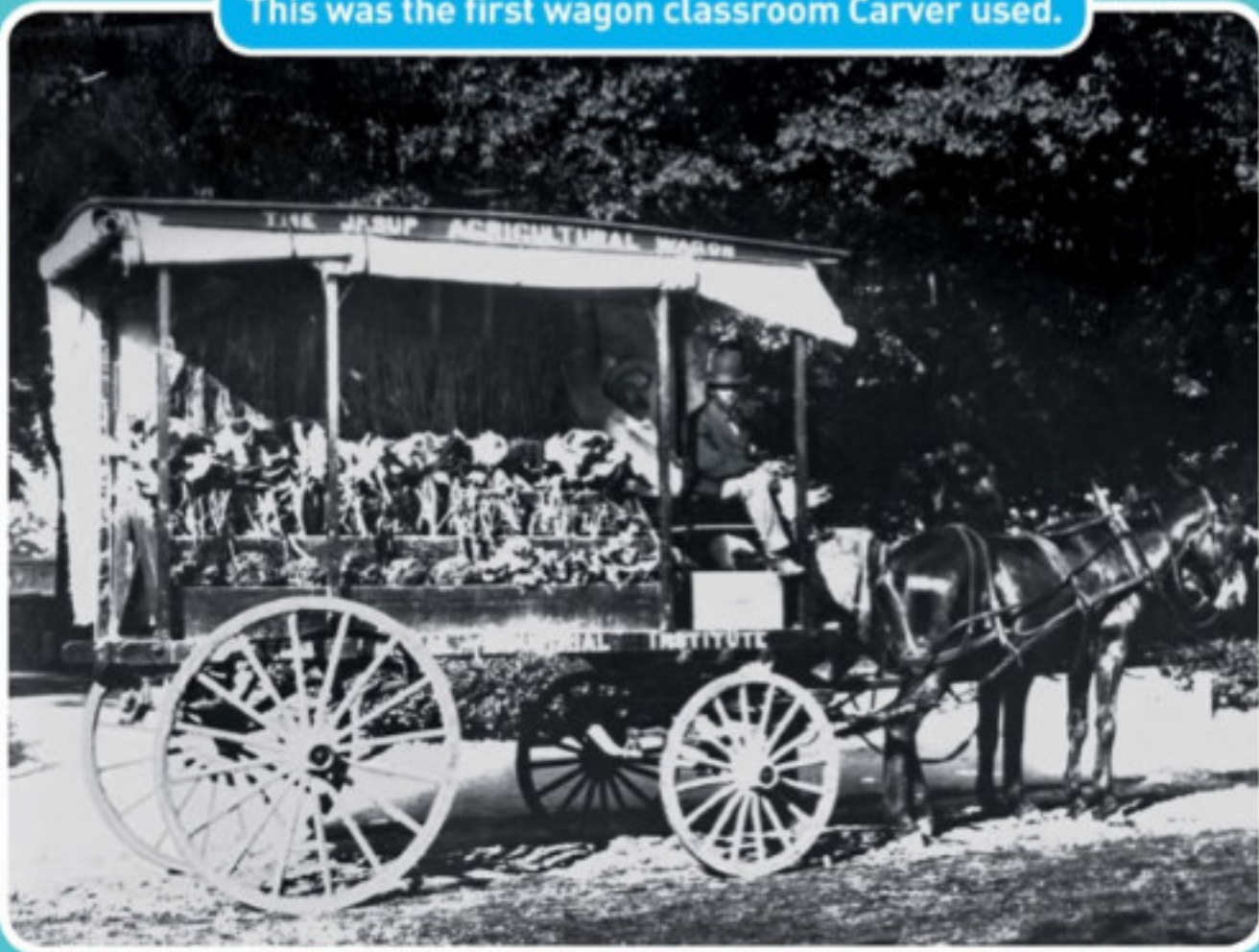


Carver (second from right) taught in this lab at Tuskegee Institute in 1906.

There he did important work with plants. He found many new ways to use sweet potatoes and soybeans. He invented hundreds of new things, such as paints, plastics, and dyes.

He also wanted to help farmers.
He built a classroom on a wagon.
It was pulled by mules. He drove
the wagon to nearby farms to
teach about agriculture.

This was the first wagon classroom Carver used.



Most farmers couldn't
come to Carver's
classroom. So Carver
wanted to bring his
ideas to them.



Carver said a massage with peanut oil could help a sick person. The oil was sold in bottles like these.

Carver thought that planting peanuts could help farmers too. Peanut plants would keep the soil healthy.

Farmers could also sell this crop to earn more money. Carver had found more than 300 ways to use peanut plants. They could be turned into glue, medicine, gasoline, and even paper.

Good Ideas

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Carver traveled. He gave speeches about farming. He spoke about peanuts. He also spoke about treating all people fairly.

In 1921, he spoke to the U.S. Congress. Some people in Congress didn't want to listen to a black man. But he had good ideas. Finally Congress listened. They shared his ideas with others.

In His Own Words

"I want to feel that my life has been of some service to my fellow man."

1864

Born around this year

1865

Slavery ends in the United States

1877

Leaves home to go to school

1894

Earns his first degree from Iowa State College

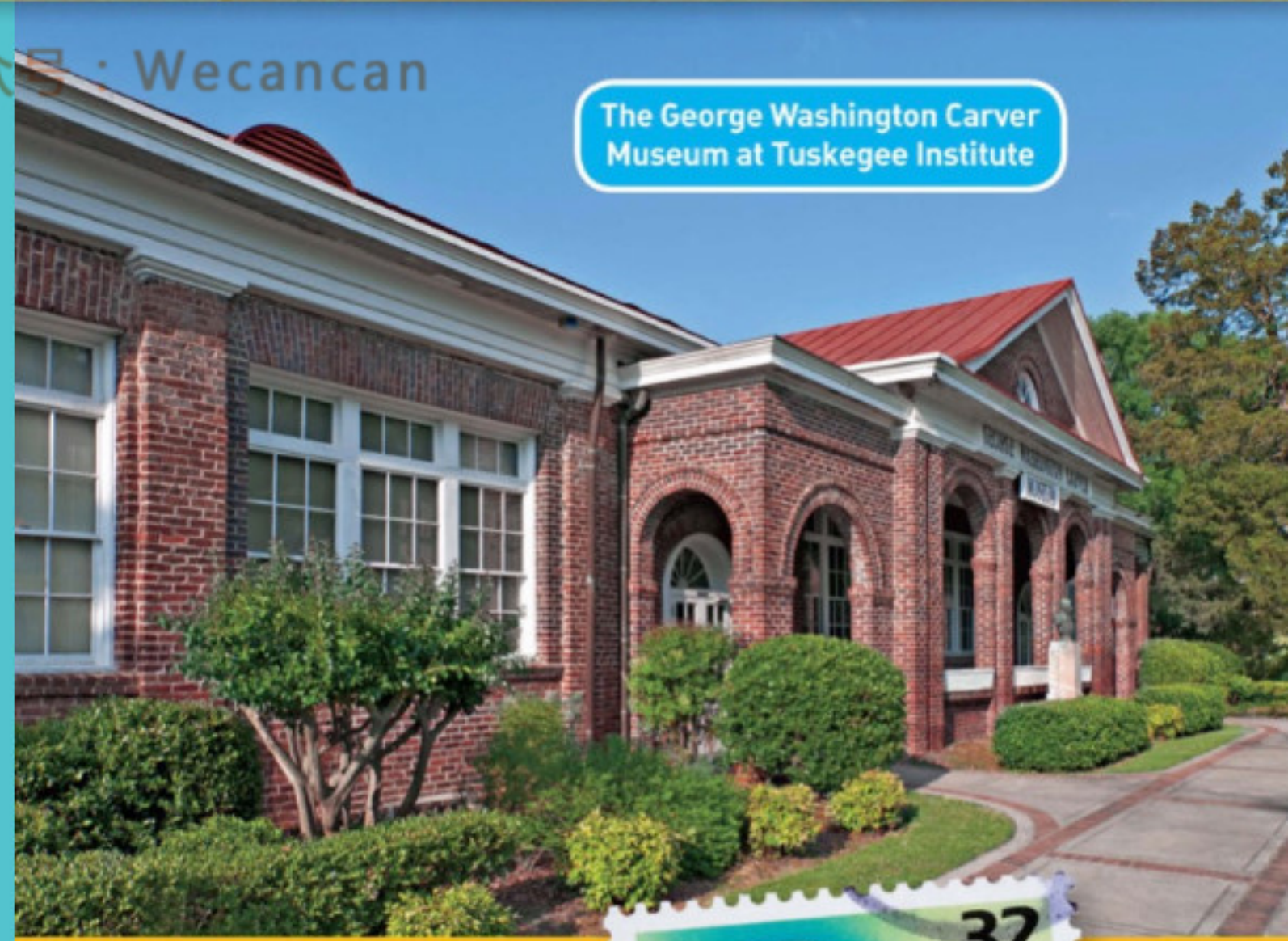
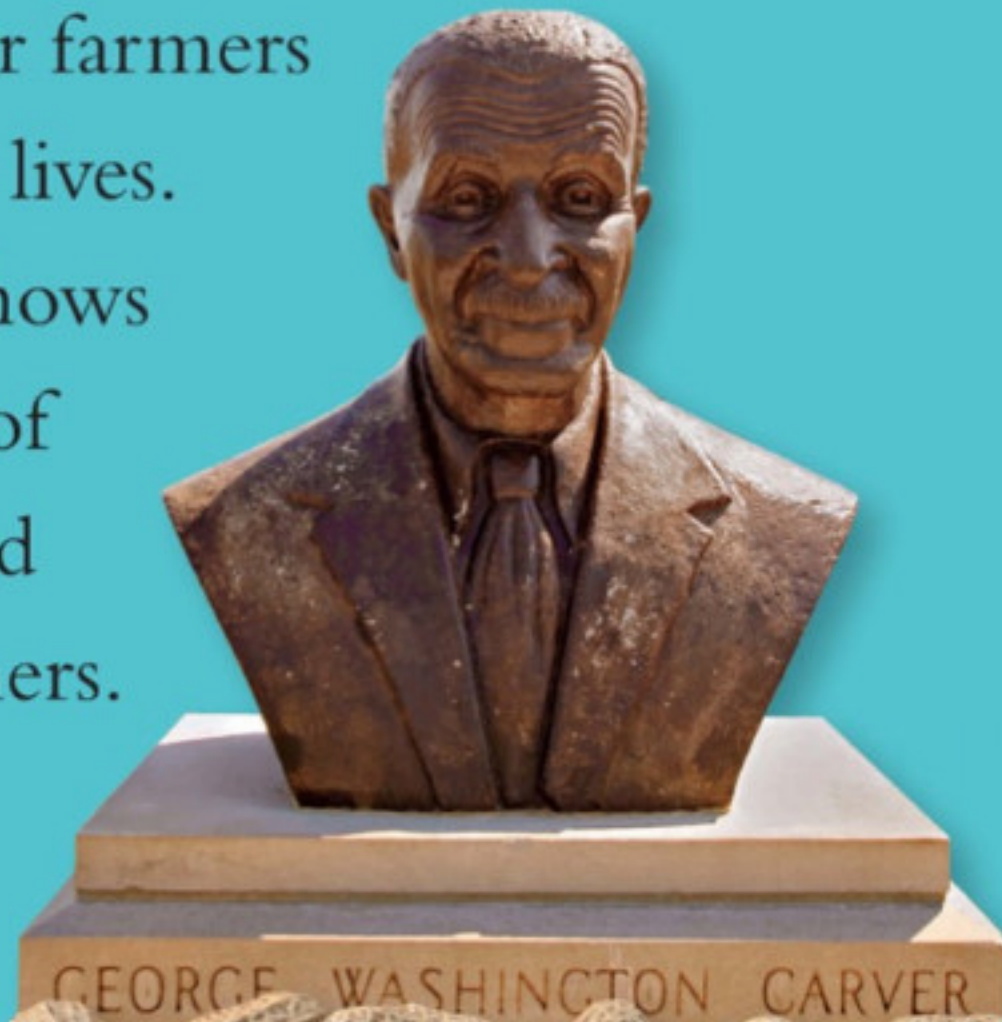
1896

Earns another degree from Iowa State College

Hard Work

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Carver died in 1943. He was around 79 years old. Carver's hard work helped many people. His ideas helped poor farmers have better lives. His story shows the power of learning and helping others.



The George Washington Carver Museum at Tuskegee Institute



Carver's picture appeared on a 32-cent U.S. postage stamp in 1998. It was the second stamp with his picture.

1896

Starts teaching at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama

1921

Speaks to U.S. Congress about the many uses of peanuts

1943

Dies on January 5

1948

His picture appears on a three-cent U.S. postage stamp

1965

The U.S. Navy names a submarine the U.S.S. *George Washington Carver*

What in the World?

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Word Bank

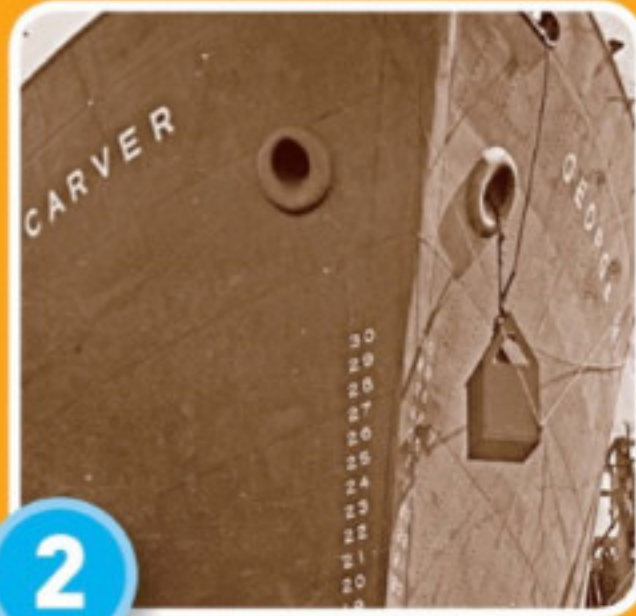
mules berries books rocks ships peanuts

These pictures show up-close views of items from George Washington Carver's time. Use the hints to figure out what's in the pictures. Answers are on page 31.



1

HINT: Carver found many uses for this crop.



2

HINT: The U.S. Navy named two of these in Carver's honor.



3

HINT: Carver loved to read but had only one of these as a child.



4

HINT: These animals pulled Carver's wagon classroom.



5

HINT: Carver made paint with these.

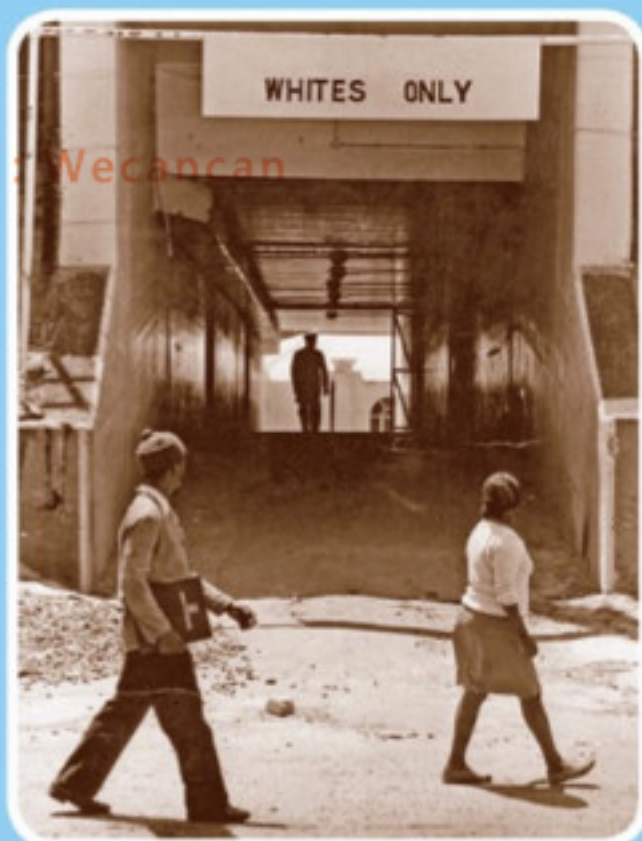


6

HINT: Carver collected these on the farm where he grew up.



AGRICULTURE: The science of farming



RACISM: The belief that one group of people is better than another



SLAVE: A person who is owned by another person



SUSTAINABLE: Grown in a way that keeps the soil healthy