

Name:

Date:

Worksheet One

This worksheet accompanies slide 4 of *Reading Non-Fiction 3.ppt*

George Washington Carver

Read this text about George Washington Carver. Highlight any words you do not know. Then try to figure out what they mean, or look up a definition.

The Peanut Man

George Washington Carver was always interested in plants. When he was a child, he was known as the "plant doctor." He had a secret garden where he grew all kinds of plants. People would ask him for advice when they had sick plants. Sometimes he'd take their plants to his garden and nurse them back to health.

Later, when he was teaching at Tuskegee Institute, he put his plant skills to good use. Many people in the South had been growing only cotton on their land. Cotton plants use most of the **nutrients** in the soil... So the soil becomes "worn out" after a few years. Eventually, cotton will no longer grow on this land.

This was especially bad for poor African American farmers, who relied on selling cotton to support themselves. Carver was dedicated to helping those farmers, so he came up with a plan. Carver knew that certain plants put nutrients back into the soil. One of those plants is the peanut! Peanuts are also a source of **protein**.

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Carver thought that if those farmers planted peanuts, the plants would help restore their soil, provide food for their animals, and provide protein for their families—quite a plant! In 1896 peanuts were not even recognized as a crop in the United States, but Carver would help change that.

Carver told farmers to rotate their crops: plant cotton one year, then the next year plant peanuts and other soil-**restoring** plants, like peas and sweet potatoes. It worked! The peanut plants grew and produced lots of peanuts. The plants added enough nutrients to the soil so cotton grew the next year. Now the farmers had lots of peanuts—too many for their families and animals—and no place to sell the extras. Again, Carver had a plan. Do you know what he did?

Carver invented all kinds of things made out of peanuts. He wrote down more than 300 uses for peanuts, including peanut milk, peanut paper, and peanut soap. Carver thought that if farmers started making things out of peanuts, they'd have to buy fewer things and would be more **self-sufficient**. And if other people started making things out of peanuts, they would want to buy the extra peanuts, so the farmers would make more money. Although not many of Carver's peanut products were ever mass-produced, he did help spread the word about peanuts.

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Worksheet Two

This worksheet accompanies slide 5 *Reading Non-Fiction 3.ppt*

Thinking like a journalist

Asking key questions can help you understand a text better. Read the text again and answer these questions. Include quotations from the text as evidence to support your answers.

Question	Answer
Who is the text mainly about?	
What did this person do?	
When did events take place?	
Where did events take place?	
Why did the person do what he or she did?	
How did the person do what he or she did?	

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Worksheet Three

This worksheet accompanies slide 7 of *Reading Non-Fiction 3.ppt*

Cause and effect

After you've read the text about George Washington Carver, think about the main events in the text. In each box below, draw a picture or write a summary of an event in the text in the order that they happened. On the lines next to the arrow, describe how the events are related. If you need more space, continue on the back of this page.

Event 1:



What happened to cause the next event? _____

Event 2:



What happened to cause the next event? _____

Event 3:



What happened to cause the next event? _____

Event 4: