

Take a Closer Look

- What is *botany*? Circle how you know.
- What did George learn about planting different crops? Underline one example.

*George taught us
to care for plants.*

They make the air we breathe.

They provide us with food.

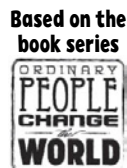
Plants are so important!



- What is one way you can take better care of the Earth?

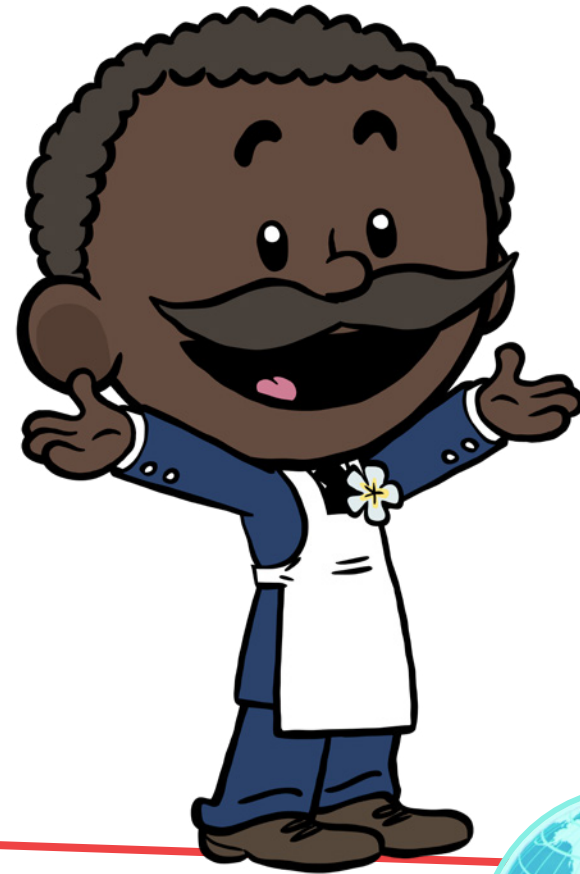


Join Xavier and friends for
more stories of great people,
just like you!
pbskids.org/xavier



George Washington Carver

Take care of the Earth.



George Washington Carver
studied plants. He worked to
improve the lives of African
American farmers in the South.



The southern part of the United States is sometimes called the South.

A Secret Garden

George Washington Carver was born in Missouri in 1864. When he was young, he liked to walk in the woods. He was curious about plants and flowers. He even had a secret garden. He took care of the plants and protected them from insects. He called plants and flowers his "pets."

The Science of Plants

George went to college to study art. One of his teachers saw how much he liked to draw plants. She told him he should study *botany*. Botany is the science of plants. George

Amazing Fact!

George Washington Carver came up with 105 recipes for using peanuts, including peanut macaroni and cheese!



This is a photograph of a peanut plant.

Pollinator, GFDL

decided to go to another college to learn about plants, gardens, and farming.

Helping Plants and People

George studied how farmers could plant different crops instead of the same crop over and over. This made the soil healthier. Crops could grow better.

He talked about not wasting acorns. He said they could be used to feed farm animals. He also told people to dry, can, and preserve fruits and vegetables. He wanted to help people. He wanted African Americans to eat healthy foods. He wanted to take care of the Earth. George was born more than 150 years ago. His lessons are just as important today.



This is a photograph of George Washington Carver when he was 42 years old. He is holding a clump of soil.

Library of Congress