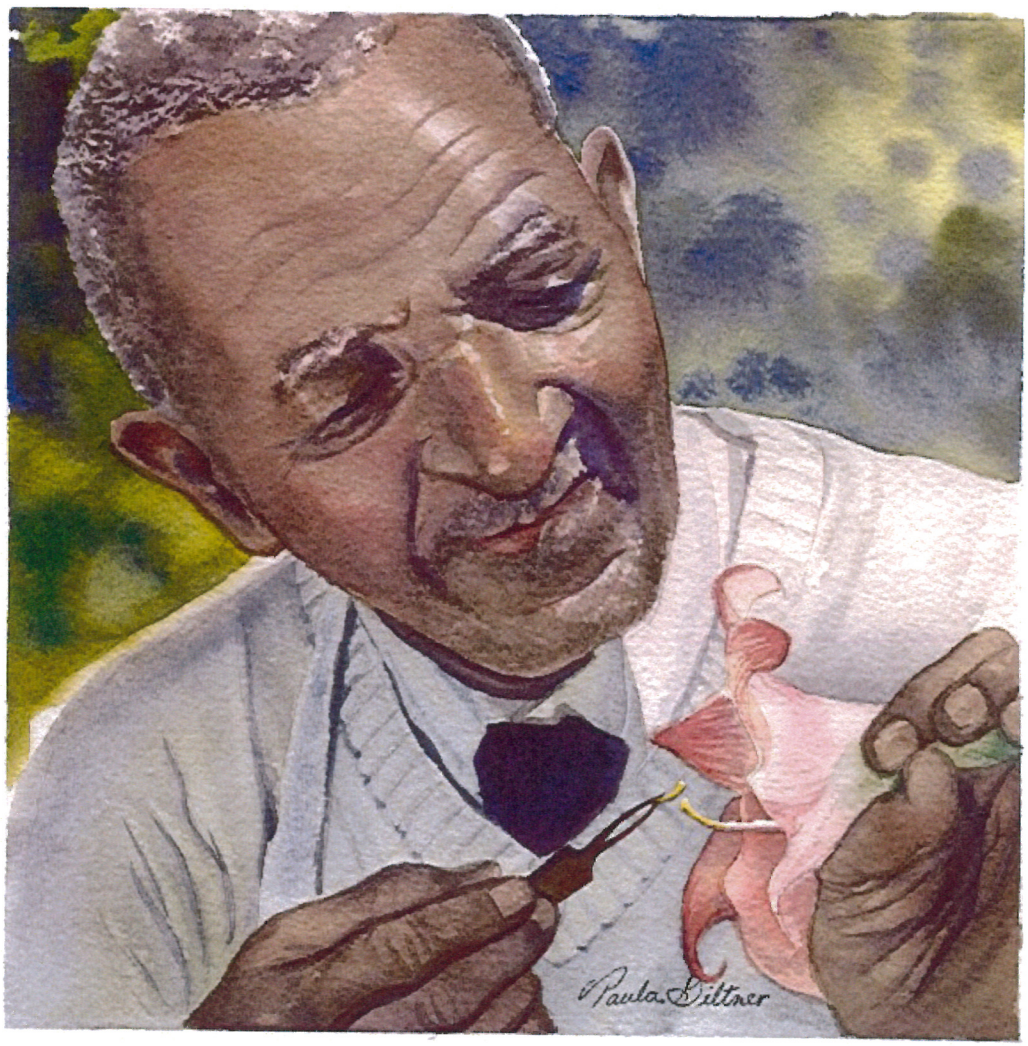
National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

George Washington Carver National Monument



Field Trip Packet

George Washington Carver – The Plant Doctor

Grades K-1

George Washington Carver National Monument
Field Trip Information Sheet

- **ARRIVAL**
  When arriving at George Washington Carver National Monument, **please send one teacher into the visitor center front desk to check in**. You may return the park film (if applicable) at this time and pick up your group's schedule, which has been prepared in advance by a park ranger. You may stop your bus in front of the visitor center but please leave your group onboard until you receive instructions from a park ranger concerning the starting location for your program. Bus parking is located on the south side of the parking lot.

- **SCHOOL GROUP ENTRANCE**
  Student groups are asked to use the door on the south side of the visitor center. Please look for the school bus sign welcoming you and pointing the way. This is the door to use during the course of the field trip visit (lunch time, restroom breaks), which really helps avoid congestion in the main lobby of the visitor center. **Please remind each teacher and chaperone of this request**. Other visitors will be viewing the park film in the theater or visiting the museum, so we want to keep noise in those areas to a minimum.

- **YOUR SCHEDULE**
  Your group should be ready to begin at the scheduled time, usually 10:00 a.m. (see group reservation form). Please allow enough time for a restroom break before your program begins. **A late arrival necessitates adjustment of educational programming**.

- **CHAPERONES**
  Teachers and chaperones should be with students at all times. Please provide 1 chaperone for every 5-10 students. ***Please see chaperone list (attached).***

- **PICNIC FACILITIES**
  Lunches may be eaten in the picnic grounds or, during inclement weather, inside the multipurpose room. Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed inside park facilities.

- **MUSEUM STORE**
  The museum store, located inside the visitor center, is operated by the Carver Birthplace Association. Your group's schedule here is incorporated into the discovery area time. Please rotate students between those two areas, limiting visits in the museum store to about 10-12 students at a time, with lots of chaperones. The small space has potential to become overcrowded and noisy. Please avoid lining up students inside the lobby area, out of courtesy to other visitors.

- **WEATHER**
  In the event of a severe storm warning, the trail will be closed to all visitors. Park rangers will work to provide a quality field trip experience by providing alternative activities. However, the schedule may be shortened if the trail is closed or if cold, rainy weather keeps the group indoors.

- **SAFETY NOTE (Peanut Allergies)**
  Peanuts are in use at George Washington Carver National Monument. Peanut growing kits and raw peanuts may be found at the park. Please notify parents and students of this safety issue.

There is no charge for park programs. Enjoy your visit!

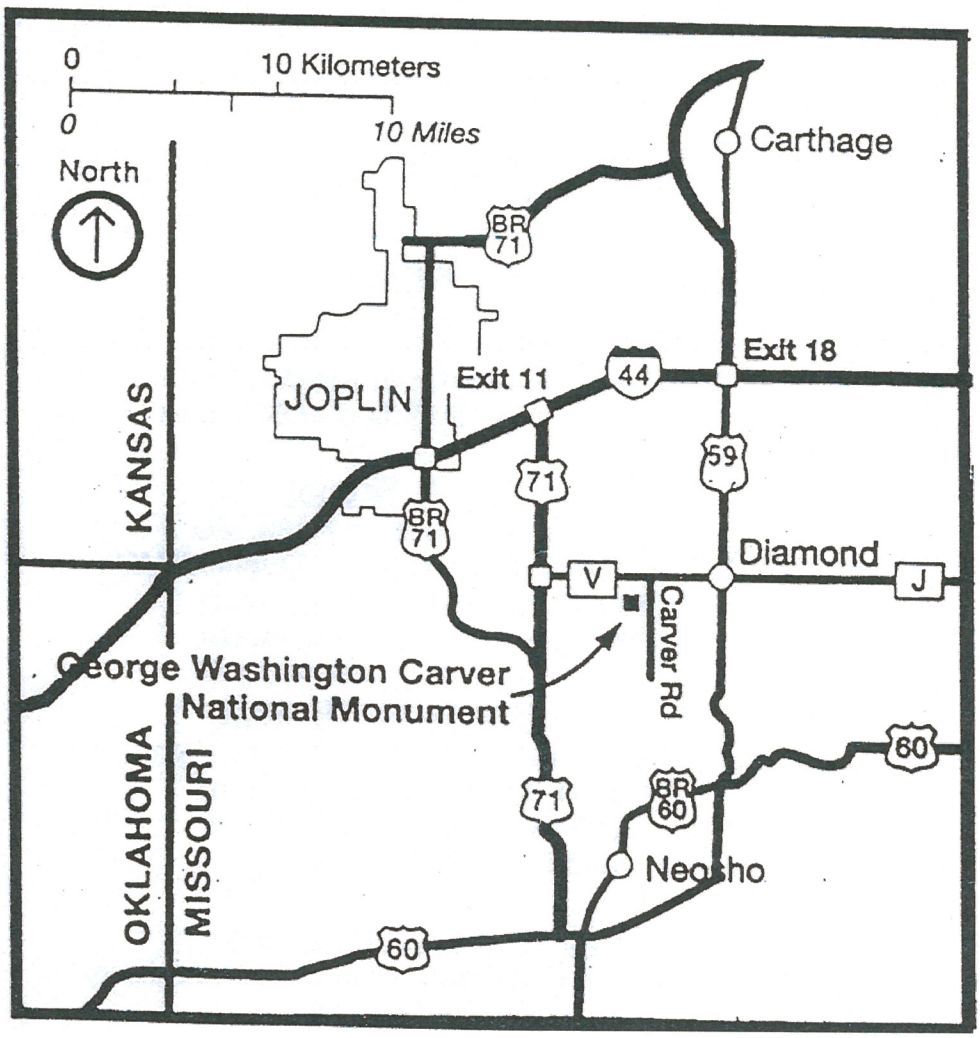
Directions to George Washington Carver National Monument

From Interstate 44:
From Exit 11A on I-44, take US 71 south to Highway V. Go east 4 miles, then south ½ mile on Carver Road.

From Exit 18A on I-44, take Highway 59 south to Diamond. Go west 2 miles on Highway V, then south ½ mile on Carver Road.

From Neosho, MO:
Take US 71 north to Highway V. Go east 4 miles, then south ½ mile on Carver Road.

Take Highway 59 north to Diamond. Go west 2 miles on Highway V, then south ½ mile on Carver Road.



George Washington Carver – The Plant Doctor

S3, S4 G1.1,1.3, 2.3

Carver's "hands-on" philosophy of education:

"The thoughtful educator realizes that a very large part of the child's education must be gotten outside of the four walls designated as classroom. He also understands that the most effective and lasting education is the one that makes the pupil handle, discuss and familiarize himself with the real things about him…" (introduction to 1910 bulletin #18 entitled *Nature Study and Gardening for Rural Schools*)

The Plant Doctor field trip at George Washington Carver National Monument is designed to help students learn about nature at the park. The program will guide students on an exploration of the park grounds. This program consists of four ranger-led components and two self-guided components:

- Nature hike on the Carver trail
- Nature classroom activity
- Discovery area (interactive exhibits)
- Museum store
- Picnic

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

To prepare your students for their field trip, choose from the following activities, as appropriate for your class:

- Watch *The Boyhood of Carver,* the 12-minute video (if available)
- Vocabulary List
- Read *George Washington Carver* by Martha E.H. Rustad (ISBN: 0-7368-0996-1)
- Create nature notebooks (for use during the field trip)
- Create paper binoculars (for use during the field trip)

ON THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT

Report to the visitor center, receive your schedule, and organize your students into groups, according to your schedule. Students should be placed in pairs. A park ranger will be assigned to each group and will distribute backpacks to each pair of students. Be sure to bring the nature notebooks and binoculars.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

To reinforce the concepts covered during the field trip choose from the following activities, as appropriate for your class:

- Draw a picture and tell a story about the field trip to George Washington Carver National Monument.
- Talk about your plant pressing and how it is like George Washington Carver's plant pressings (his herbarium collection).
- Make a new page in the nature notebook. Suggested writing prompt: "George wondered about…" and "I wonder about…"
- Have the class make a picture or poster and send it to the park ranger.
- Write a thank you letter to the park and tell the best part of the field trip.

Nature Notebook Directions

Students will use their Nature Notebooks throughout the Plant Doctor field trip. Notebooks need to be constructed before the day of the field trip. Make these as simple or as fancy as you choose!

COVER: each notebook should have a sturdy cover (cardstock, cardboard, construction paper, etc.). Students should decorate the covers and place their names on the front.

INSIDE: each should have about 10 pages of paper. An easy way to make these is to lay a piece of cardstock on a table and then 5 sheets of paper. Fold these in half vertically and staple twice in the middle. You should have a booklet measuring 8 ½ X 5 ½.

TITLE PAGE: Help students make the first page the title page. It should read:

The Plant Doctor Field Trip

George Washington Carver National Monument

Diamond, Missouri

Date: _____

Name: _____

Binoculars Instructions

Have students bring to class the cardboard tubes from empty toilet tissue rolls. Each student needs two. Cover them with colorful construction paper to connect the rolls, and then decorate as desired. Use a hole-punch and make a hole in the outer sides of each tube. Secure yarn or ribbon in the holes, making a neck strap so students can wear their binoculars around their necks. Bring these along on the field trip for your students to explore nature with their eyes, just like George!

Plant Doctor Field Trip Vocabulary: Nature Words

To prepare for the field trip, choose from the following words for students to spell, define, or act out. Can you think of other words to describe what you may learn on the field trip?

1. Creek – a small body of moving water that often travels through fields and woods

2. Curious –eagerness to learn more about something new

3. Explore – to travel around and discover new sights

4. Habitat - the environment where living things survive

5. Harmful – to hurt something or to cause damage

6. Herbarium – a collection of dried plant specimens

7. Nature – the world with all of its living and non-living things

8. Observe – carefully study the details of something

9. Organism – any living thing, whether plant or animal

10. Plant Doctor – George Washington Carver's childhood nickname

11. Plant Specimen – all or part of a plant, dried for long term storage and study

12. Pond – a body of water formed by rain or spring water, usually held in by a pond bank

13. Secret Garden – the little garden George kept hidden in the brush, because people thought it was foolish to waste time on flowers.

14. Spring – cold, underground water that comes to the surface; often a water source for homesteaders like the Carver family

Top Ten Things Kids Love in the Museum Store at George Washington Carver National Monument!

10. Post Card – 50 ¢

9. Pencil – 35 ¢

8. US Constitution and other historical documents – $1.25 - $1.95

7. Yo-Yo - $2.95

6. Puddle Jumper - $2.95

5. Jacob's Ladder - $1.95

4. A Scholastic book on George Washington Carver - $5.99

3. A Poster of George Washington Carver - $3.50

2. Peanut Growing Kit - 50 ¢

1. Dog Tag - $3.50

Updated January 2011; all prices subject to change

The sales area is operated by the Carver Birthplace Association.

George Washington Carver National Monument
Diamond, MO

Congratulations!

You are a *chaperone* on the field trip to George Washington Carver National Monument.

Webster says: ***chaperone*** - one delegated to ensure proper behavior

Your teachers appreciate your help and so do the park rangers and Volunteers In Parks (VIPs). Here are a few things chaperones can do to help make the field trip educational, safe, and fun.

- Lead your group through the south door of the building.
- Escort students to restroom or drink fountains on the lower level.
- Remind students to use inside voices when inside discovery area or museum store.
- Focus student attention on the exhibits in the discovery area.
- Help students know that when the park ranger or VIP is talking, it is time to listen.
- Be a helping hand in the science lab or one-room schoolroom.
- Supervise students inside the museum store and help them with purchases.
- Turn cell phone on silent and take phone calls away from the group during programs.

If it rains, be ready for Plan B! We will need extra help if the children are indoors ☺

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!