



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington  
Carver National  
Monument

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## George Washington Carver NM News Release

For Immediate Release

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### NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM: FIRE ECOLOGY

George Washington Carver National Monument announces the website addition of the high school science lesson: *TO BURN OR NOT TO BURN - Effects of fire as management for tallgrass prairie: A case study from George Washington Carver National Monument*. Working in conjunction with Miller High School science teacher Theresa Johnson, Missouri State University Department of Biology, and Heartland Inventory and Monitoring Network, park staff is pleased to make this new lesson available.

Teachers may download this lesson from the “For Teachers” link on the park’s website: [www.nps.gov/gwca](http://www.nps.gov/gwca). *To Burn or Not to Burn* features a field trip to prairie units within the park or to other native prairie units. Designed for high school biology and ecology classes, it is aligned to Missouri Biology Course Level Expectations. Lesson goals include educating students on the effects of select management techniques on tallgrass prairie ecology, introducing students to research methods (field sampling, data collection and analysis), and maintaining the historic prairie ecosystem.

Participating students should be able to interpret and analyze data relative to prairie land management techniques, describe ecosystem processes such as fire, grazing, and climatic conditions, and predict the impact of natural or human caused disturbances that may affect the biodiversity and occurrence of invasive species in the prairie plant community.

The National Park Service is an excellent resource for educational enrichment and teachers are encouraged to consult the “Teachers” link from the National Park Service homepage: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) for additional resources and the “For Teachers” link from individual park homepages. George Washington Carver National Monument is pleased to add *To Burn or Not to Burn* to the other educational programs available on the park website.

Administered by the National Park Service, an agency of the Department of the Interior, George Washington Carver National Monument preserves the birthplace and childhood home of George Washington Carver, scientist, educator, and humanitarian. The monument is located two miles west of Diamond, Missouri on Highway V, then ½ mile south on Carver Road. For more information, please call the park at (417) 325-4151 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.