

George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was the son of slave parents. When he was very young, they were kidnapped and he never saw them again. He was raised by his plantation owners on a farm in Diamond Grove, Missouri. Early on, George was interested in all kinds of plants. He worked hard to make a place for himself in school. He was accepted at Simpson College. There he continued to focus on the study and drawing of plants. He went on to Iowa Agricultural College, which is now Iowa State University, to get his degree. After graduation, he stayed on to attain his M.S. in agriculture.

Booker T. Washington invited him to teach at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. There, George created an agricultural science laboratory where he and the students conducted experiments on various crops and soil nutrients. He wanted to create high crop yield. He figured out that crop rotation would make soil last much longer, so he planted peas and peanuts in a field one year, then put cotton in that field the next. This way, the soil in the cotton field could be replenished every other year with nutrients that the peanuts and peas had put back into the soil.

George spent a lot of time developing uses for the peanut, the sweet potato, and the pecan. For example, he used peanuts to make chocolate-coated peanuts, peanut brittle, and salad oil. He made unusual things, too, like paint, peanut sausage, peanut punch, tan remover, peanut tofu sauce, soap, sizing for walls, axle grease, shaving cream, and wood filler. There seemed to be no end to what Carver could do with a peanut. He brought new respect to the field of agriculture. He is honored at the Carver Memorial Museum at Tuskegee University and at his birthplace in Diamond Grove.

Putting Together the *George Washington Carver* Lift-tab Book

Materials

- copies of the text pages (included)
- copies of lift tab pages (included)
- scissors
- glue
- stapler
- markers or crayons

Assembly Directions

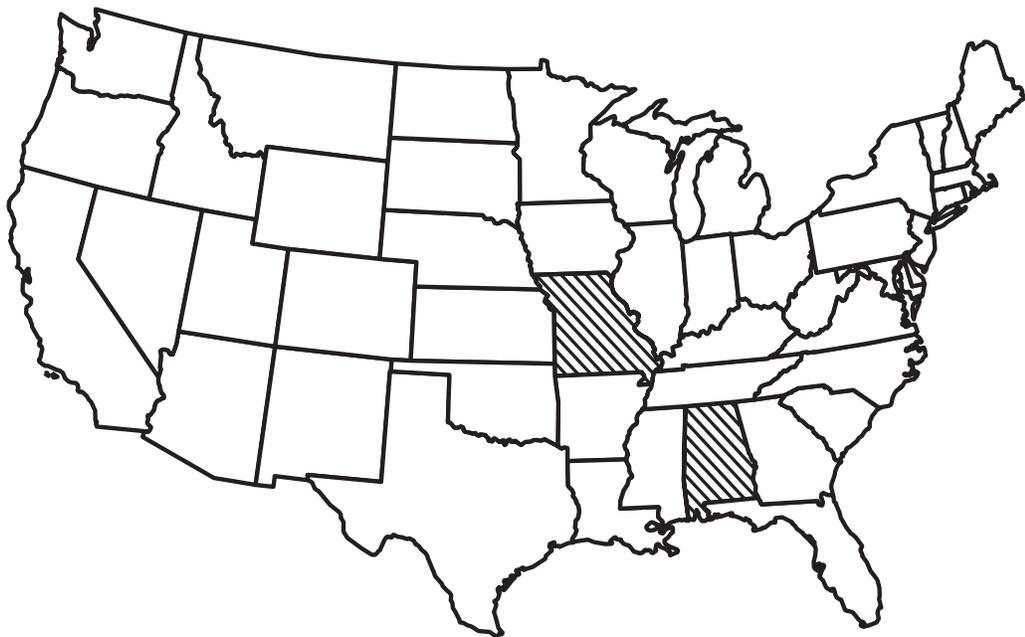
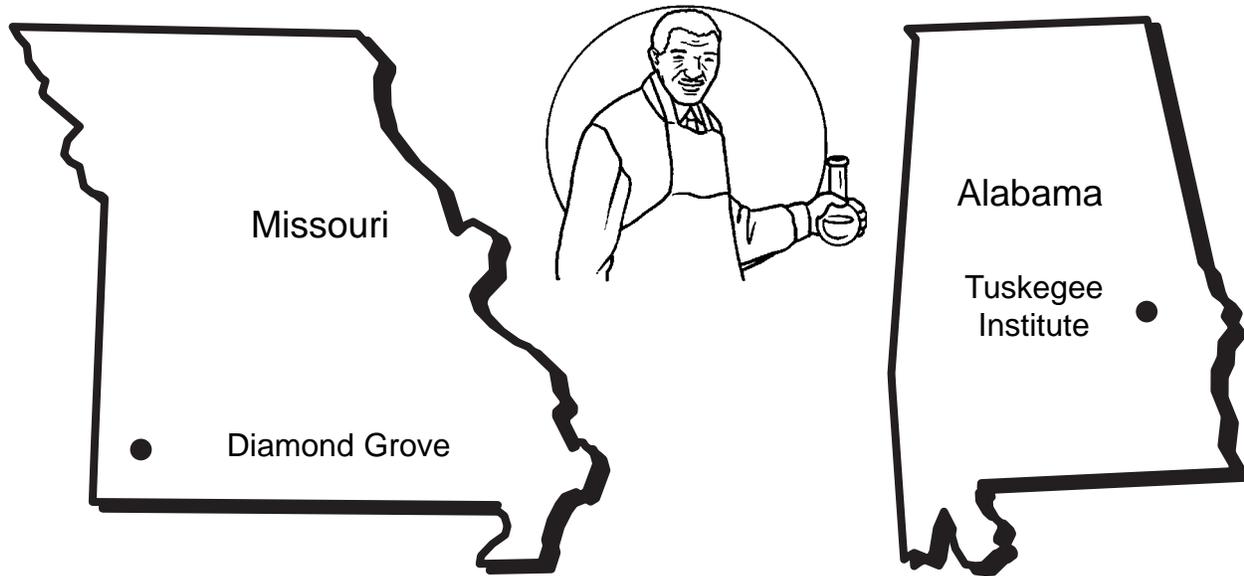
1. Color the book pages and the matching flaps.
2. Fold each page on the dotted line.
3. Put the pages in numerical order and staple them on the left side.
4. Cut out the flaps and glue each to the page at the star(s).
5. Color the flaps to match the rest of the picture.



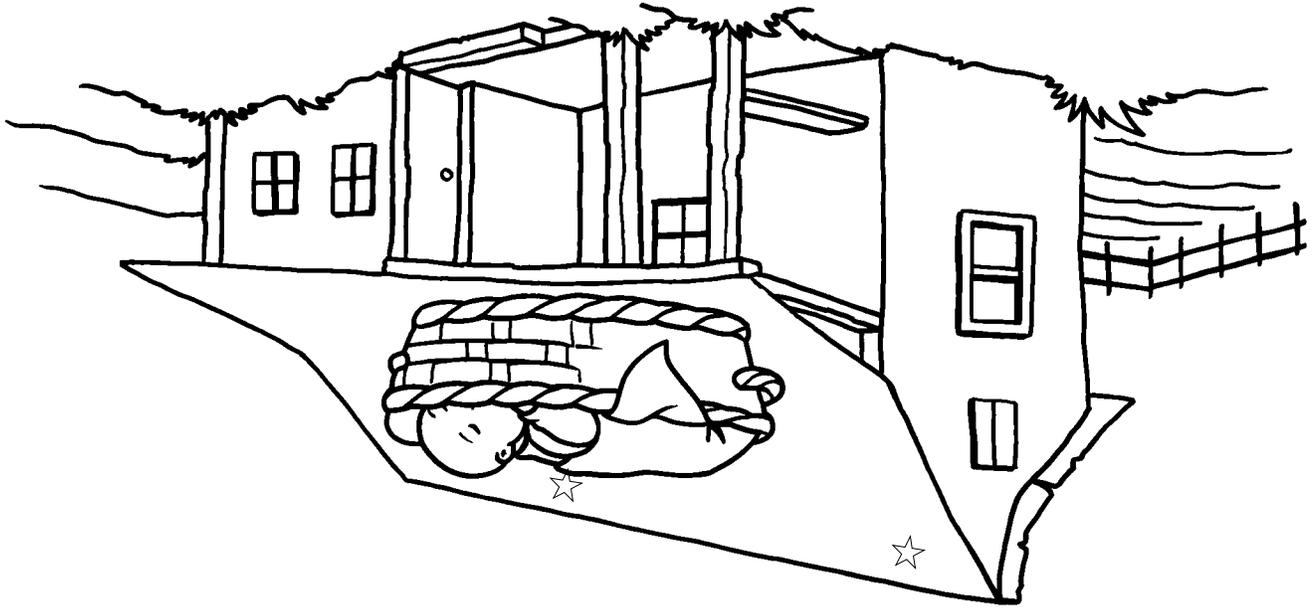
George Washington Carver

Map Study

George Washington Carver was born in Diamond Grove, Missouri. He did important work at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.



George Washington Carver was born on a plantation in Missouri.



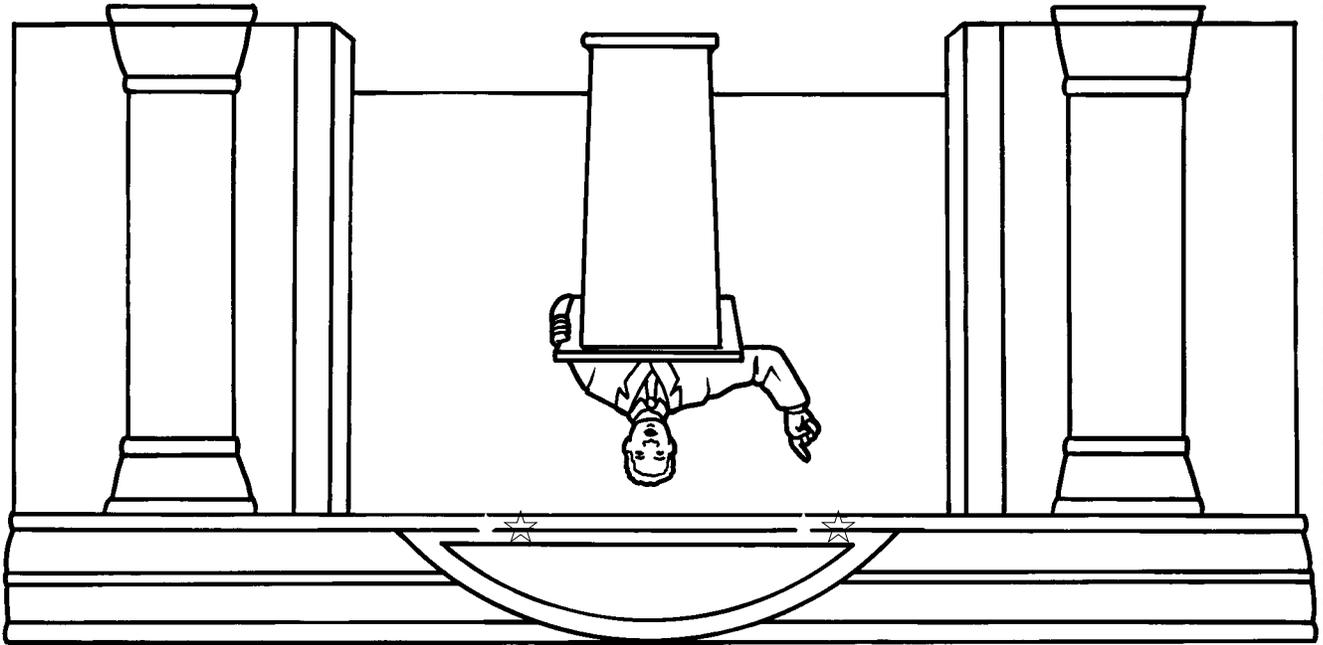
George Washington Carver



1864–1943

He loved to learn and went to school when he could. In college, his teacher thought he should be a plant scientist. He became the first black professor at Iowa State University.

3

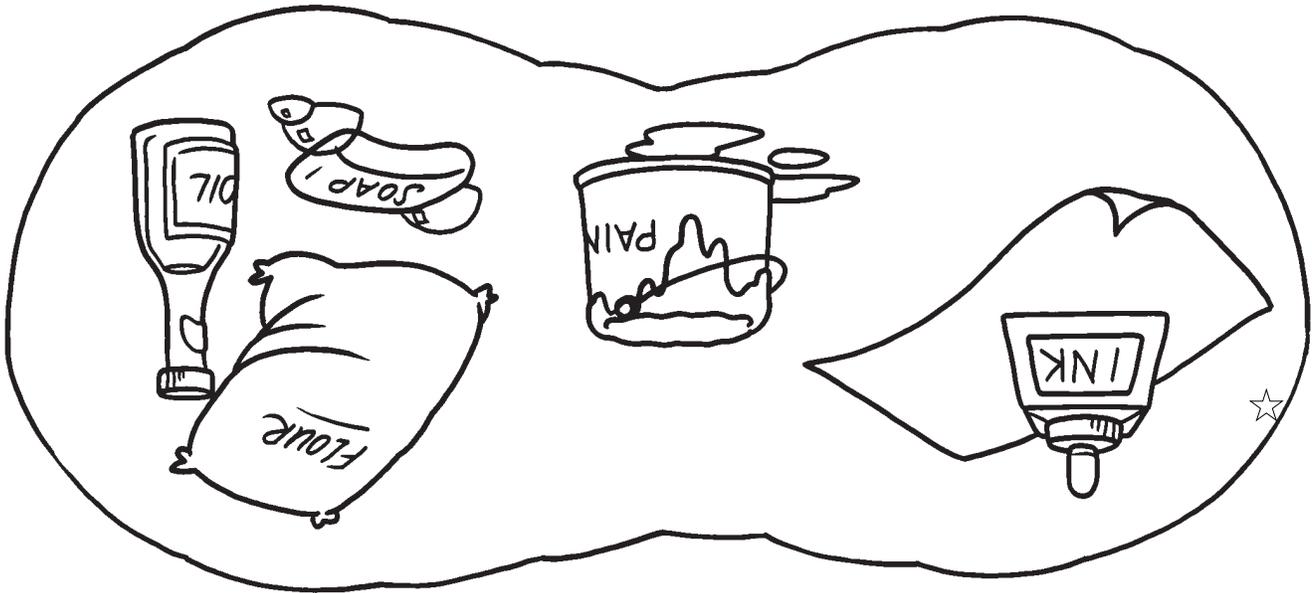


He loved plants, especially roses. As a young boy he became known to his neighbors as a “plant doctor.” He also loved to paint pictures of flowers.

2

Carver liked to make things from peanuts, sweet potatoes, and other plants. He cared about soil and wanted to keep it healthy so a little land could yield a big harvest.

5



☆ Dear George,

We need you here at Tuskegee
Institute.

Please teach the students about soil
and farming.

☆ Sincerely,

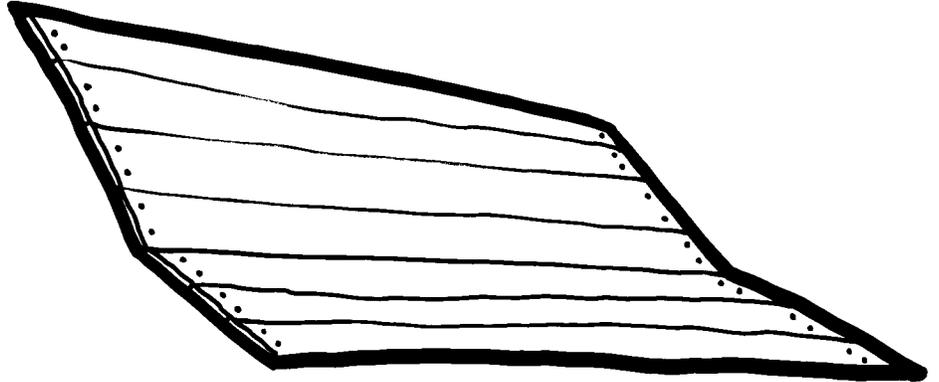
Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington asked George Washington Carver to come to the Tuskegee Institute to teach students about nature and plants.

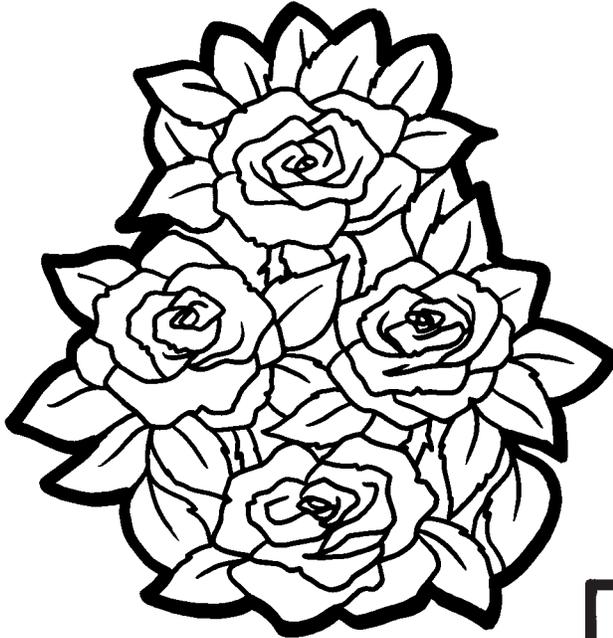
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George Washington Carver

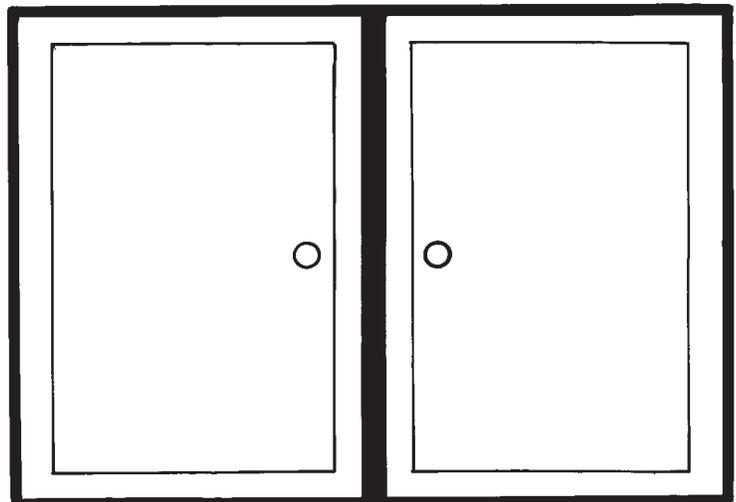
Lift tabs for *George Washington Carver*



Page 1



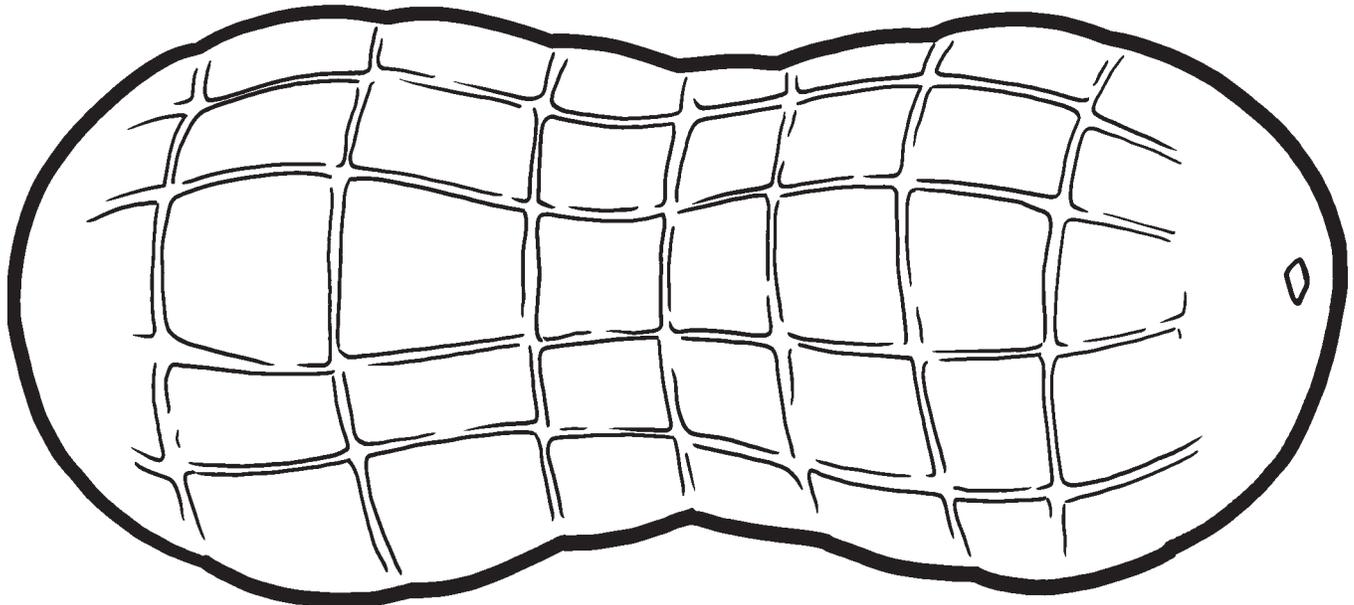
Page 2



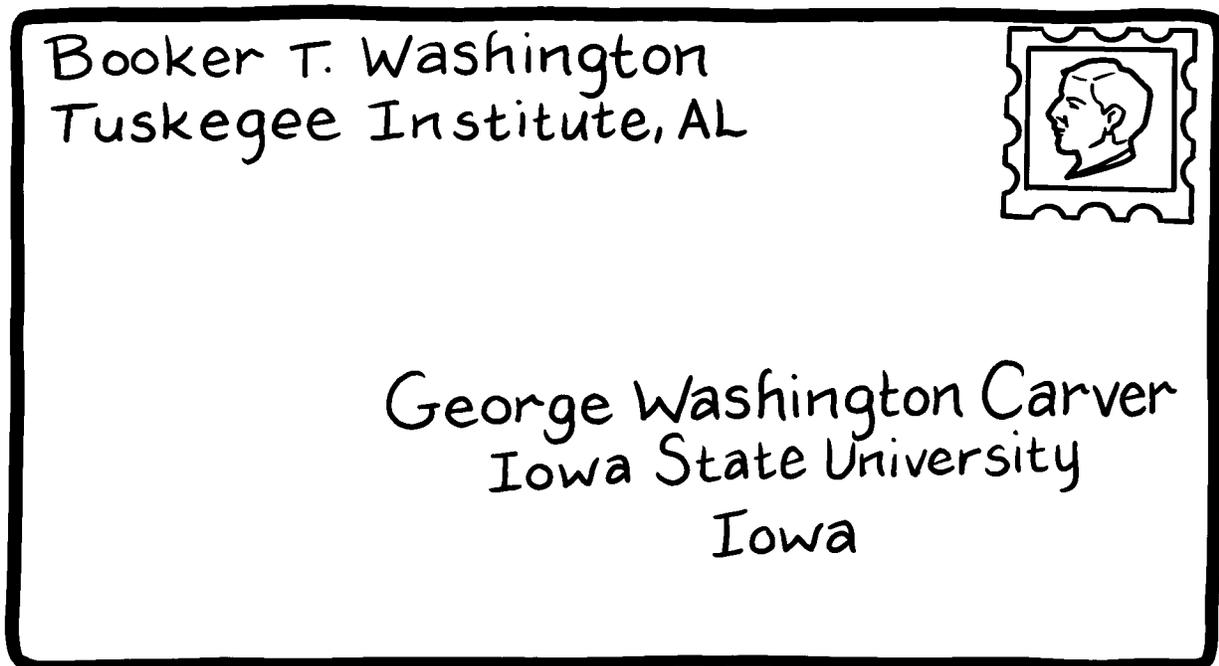
Page 3

George Washington Carver

Lift Tabs for *George Washington Carver* (cont.)



Page 5



Page 4