

George Washington Carver



Objectives

- In this presentation, we hope to:
 - Provide information on the life of George Washington Carver
 - Talk about the struggles he went through to receive an education
 - Discuss our own struggles and make comparisons
 - End with a strong conclusion summing up the greatness Carver achieved in the face of adversity and the inspiration derived therein

History

- Born: Diamond, Missouri 1864-1865 (exact date unknown)
- Born into slavery
- When he was an infant, most of his family was kidnapped from the plantation home where they lived.
- The Carver family managed to recover only the baby George.
- Slavery is abolished shortly afterward.

History

- The Carver family raises George as their own.
- George is taught to read and write at home, goes to school shortly afterward.
- Moves to another family home in Kansas to continue schooling.
- When George is college-aged, he's turned away from multiple institutions due to color of his skin.
- George purchases some land and sets up a home, growing crops and working for others in town.

History

- George takes out a loan for \$300 to go to school again.
- In Iowa, George attends school for Art and Music
- His instructor notices that he has a fantastic talent for growing and maintaining plants, so she recommends he study Botany at Iowa State University.
- He was the first black student here and would later become the first black teacher at the institution.

History

- He completed a Bachelor's Degree here, followed by a Master's Degree.
- In 1896, he began teaching at the Tuskegee Institute and would remain there for another 47 years.
- He was given many more allowances by the administration than other instructors due to his amazing intellect and abilities.
- These amenities include: a second instructor's chamber, a higher salary, and the ability to choose what he taught.

History

- During this time, he changed the way farmers plant crops by instituting a system of crop rotation. This allowed the soils to regain their growth capabilities after many difficult crop seasons.
- One of the crops to be rotated in farmers' fields was that of the peanut – possibly what Carver is most known for.
- He did quite a few experiments with the peanut, and even wrote to peanut companies detailing different uses for the legume.

History

- Due to his peanut knowledge, he gained the position of public speaker at the 1920 United Peanut Associations of America convention.
- Here, he listed and even showed examples of 145 different peanut inventions including soap, carbonated drinks, toothpastes, hand creams, and different ways to eat it.
- In 1921, he testified on behalf of a tariff that would limit the importing of cheaper peanuts from China.
- His expertise saved the entire American peanut industry that day as the Fordney-McCumber Tariff of 1922 passed with a clause on imported peanuts.

History

- This kind of publicity gave George a mild celebrity status.
- It was unprecedented for an African-American to be the foremost expert on a scientific subject such as this.
- He became a national icon and met with three different presidents. He also provided businesses with sales and logistics advice.
- George enjoyed his comfortable celebrity until his death in 1943 around the age of 79.

Purpose

- In this section, we hope to:
 - Provide detail on the hopes and dreams of George Washington Carver
 - Show the ways in which those hopes and dreams motivated him and became his main purpose in life.
 - Show other motivating factors in Carver's life.

Purpose

- Education
 - George Washington Carver's greatest purpose in life was to receive an education.
 - He was very lucky to receive support and encouragement from those close to him
 - But he was still discouraged and turned away by many others during his pursuit.
 - Although slavery had been abolished, racism was still a massive issue

Purpose

- Because racism was still a hindrance to his cause, George had to move around quite a bit.
- Once he'd learned all he could from a school, he'd try to gain entry into a higher institution.
 - He was often forced to travel far to find a school that would accept him.

Purpose

- Before he entered his first collegiate facility, he had to pause his endeavors.
 - He purchased land and worked his own fields.
 - He performed other duties for people in and around the town.
 - This hard work is a small example of George's motivation to succeed.
 - He then took out a loan to enter school once again.

Purpose

- Carver's determination had gotten him into school.
 - Here, he was encouraged to change to a degree that he did not consider himself good enough for.
 - After already completing part of his Art and Music degree, George switched paths.
 - He gained a Bachelor's Degree, and soon after completed a Master's Degree of Science in Botany.
 - Once again, his determination had taken him very far.
 - Some might say his purpose was fulfilled...

Purpose

- George Washington Carver was a brilliant man
 - And so he continued to learn while teaching students at the very college he had learned from.
 - He performed experiments constantly.
 - His purpose was to learn, and as he was fulfilling it, he was simultaneously gaining new purpose in life.
 - George always followed his hopes and dreams.
 - His determination is something to be admired by many.

Argument

- George Washington Carver was an incredible figure.
 - His intellect was amazing.
 - His motivation was inspiring.
 - He persevered through great strife and hardship to learn as much as he possibly could.
 - His education was one of the great successes of this country.

Argument

- There is no reason to believe that he *shouldn't* have been educated.
 - At the time, it was an unprecedented feat.
 - If he had not been educated, many things would be different today.
 - His will and intelligence paved massive roads for *any* member of society that is not wealthy or privately educated.
 - This definitely includes African-Americans during and after his lifetime.

Argument

- He inspired many young students during his time as an instructor, as well.
 - To see an African-American man graduate from, and become a teacher at a college was greatly inspiring at the time.
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Argument

- And he gained a small celebrity status toward the end of his life.
 - This spread word of his achievements far and wide.
 - Many more people could look up to him at this point.
 - One should be profoundly moved and inspired at the strength he must have shown to get to this place in his life.
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Relation: Zak Basta

- George Washington Carver's life was based around education and the pursuit of knowledge.
- These are two of the most important aspects of my own life, as well.
- Personal relationships and providing myself with an income are also important,
- but learning is my true passion.

Relation: Zak Basta

- I would never compare my own struggles to those of George.
- But we have both experienced great hindrances in the path to our passion of knowledge.
- Along with facing racial persecution, George had to work very hard to achieve his goals.
- I also work very hard and have my sights set on great achievements.

Relation: Zak Basta

- George was a shining example to many young students.
- I, too, hope to provide inspiration to many people in the future.
- It is because of George Washington Carver's amazing achievements that I can aspire to such greatness.

Relation: Ariza Delgado

- “Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.” – George Washington Carver
- Carver was a man of success, although he did face many challenges.
- He strived to do what he loved and be the person he was and is known for today.
- He did many things for our benefit today.

Relation: Ariza Delgado

- There are several events in the life of George Washington Carver that can be applied to my life today.
- George had to take out a loan to pay for his education.
- I, along with many other students I know, had to take out loans to pay for the costly expenses of higher education.
- Without it, I would not be able to attend college and do what I love in the future.
- George too wouldn't have been able to go to college and subsequently perform experiments.

Relation: Ariza Delgado

- George Washington Carver is known for inventing over 300 uses for the peanut. Some of these include:
 - Face creams, lotions, paints, medicines, gasoline, glue, paper, printing ink, rubber, and laundry soap.
 - Without many of his inventions, the education system, as well as many other corporations, would have to find different ways to operate.
 - Of course, without his famous peanut butter, I wouldn't have breakfast in the morning.

Relation: Ariza Delgado

- George had many instructors that encouraged him to do what he loved.
- Throughout high school, I also had teachers who motivated me to do what *I* love and to be the best I can be.
- I have struggled with things being “too difficult” for me, and if it hadn't been for their motivation, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Relation: Ariza Delgado

In conclusion, George Washington Carver and I have certain things in common that lead me to somewhat be able to relate to him. He has also showed me how far I can go if I just continue forward in my education. If it were not for his inventions, the world today would be a different place. Whether it would be different in a small way or a large way, without his creative mind, things would not be the way that we know them to be.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- George Washington Carver was a truly amazing man.
- He went through many conflicts, but still received an education.
- I can relate to George because he had to have help in paying for school.
- So did I.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- He was discriminated against.
- And although it's not as serious, I am left-handed.
- Both are difficult issues to overcome.
- I also like to create things.
- There are many ways I can relate to this man, but I think these are the most relevant.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- When I was in school, I was hoping that I would get a scholarship.
- I worked very hard and thought that my school would be paid for.
- When graduation came, I hadn't received any responses from the scholarships.
- I was very concerned.
- I knew that it would take me months to even begin paying for my schooling.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- Then I was told about financial aid.
- I filled out the forms and applied.
- When I was contacted and told I was approved, I was so relieved! I knew now that I could continue my education.
- This is a lot like George when he received his loan to attend college.
- I am so excited to be able to continue my education!

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- During his life, George was discriminated against for the color of his skin.
- He was even accepted once, but upon trying to enter the doors, was turned away due to his race.
- I have also felt discriminated against – not for as rash of a reason –
- But I still cannot change the fact that I am left-handed.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- As strange as it might sound, left-handed people are discriminated against, but nobody realizes they're doing it.
- In an average classroom, one might see desks. But to a left-handed person, it looks like “right-handed desks.”
- It is very hard to write when you have to contort your entire body to position your writing hand over your work.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- It might not seem like as big of a deal, but the fact is that I cannot change it.
- I was born left-handed and George was born black.
- But we did not let persecution set us back.
- George went to school and became wildly successful.
- I have adapted and conformed in order to go to school and hopefully achieve a Master's Degree like George.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- I like to push boundaries and experiment with art, food, and other objects.
- I think I can create new things – or make better things – by doing this.
- George had a very creative mind and saw things in different ways that helped him to create new products and ideas.
- George and I both see what the object in question *could become*, rather than what it already is.

Relation: Reannen Brewer

- George Washington Carver had the courage to think differently, and I hope I can too.
- He was an amazing man who accomplished so many things.
- I can look at him as a hero because of all he achieved.
- He went to school against all odds, and I too want to be remembered for having the courage to attend school and receive a higher education.

Relation: Anthony Ferguson

- I can relate to George Washington Carver in a few ways.
- When I was in elementary school, I became obsessed with movies and with writing.
- This is a passion I still have today!
- My teachers encouraged me to pursue my dream career much like the Carver family encouraged George to pursue his studies.

Relation: Anthony Ferguson

- The second reason really gets to me:
- When I was in high school, I got a call from someone asking me if I was interested in joining the army.
- He asked me if I had any disabilities and I told him I have Asperser syndrome.
- The guy told me I couldn't join and then hung up the phone.
- That reminded me of when Carver wasn't allowed to attend college because of his race.

Relation: Anthony Ferguson

- The next reason is a really important one:
- We all know Carver for his discovery of peanut butter.
- Without him, what would jelly go with?
- What would go in Reese's cups?
- Our society would crumble!
- We owe it all to Carver for discovering one of America's pastimes.

Relation: Anthony Ferguson

- Another reason relates to the racism issue and it's very important.
- When I was in high school, I knew a guy who was racist against Mexicans, and he sure wasn't afraid to admit it.
- I am half Mexican and I really didn't appreciate his issues.

Conclusion

- George Washington Carver was a conqueror when it came to his pursuits.
- He went from being a slave to gaining a Master's Degree!
- He went from being a student to being the first black professor at his college!
- He even became a representative of an entire industry and saved the United Peanut Associations of America.

Conclusion

- Few of us realize that gaining a higher education is such a great achievement.
- It is a difficult and rewarding task.
- Whenever we feel that we cannot complete our educations, we can look to a man who did so against all odds.
- We have so many resources available to us to gain an education. Not one of us has a good excuse not to go through with it!

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