

George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver lived from 1864 to 1943. He spent much of his life helping farmers to use their land in better ways. His ideas have helped farmers in many countries around the world.

Carver was in charge of farm research at Tuskegee Institute, a college in Alabama. He taught students how to farm. He also worked with southern farmers on their land. In the southern part of the United States, most farmers had grown cotton for so many years that the soil had worn out. Carver showed them how to improve the land.

Carver said the farmers should plant peanuts. Peanuts would enrich the soil. Farmers asked who would buy so many peanuts if they planted them. Carver answered by finding more than 300 new ways to use peanuts. Farmers could feed the vines to farm animals. They could use the hulls for fertilizer. Carver even found a way to make paper from the peanut shells.

When Carver died, he left his money to help people to keep working on farm research. Today, people from many countries come to the George Washington Carver Foundation at Tuskegee Institute. There they learn better ways of farming. Why is this important to the world today?

Extended Response

What do you think this African American's most important legacy is?

Explain why you think that is the most important legacy. Use information from the passage and your own ideas in your extended response.