

## Quick Check

## George Washington Carver

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What personality traits helped George Washington Carver to become a successful college graduate and teacher?
  - Ⓐ He felt his skills and educational background were limited.
  - Ⓑ He was hardworking, always tried his hardest, and didn't give up his dream.
  - Ⓒ He gave up easily and was easily frustrated when he was told no.
  - Ⓓ He was strong and became a very fast runner.
2. When he grew up, Carver became a **professor**, which is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ⓐ a person who creates, designs, or builds something that did not exist before
  - Ⓑ a farmer who works on land owned by others
  - Ⓒ a college or university teacher who teaches in a specialized field
  - Ⓓ a person who raises livestock
3. Which sentence helps readers know that George and his brother didn't have parents?
  - Ⓐ When the Civil War ended in 1865, George and his older brother, Jim, were freed.
  - Ⓑ The Carvers gave the orphaned boys a home.
  - Ⓒ Susan taught George to read, write, and sew.
  - Ⓓ George taught himself about the local plants and animals.
4. Which of the following sentences tells about a problem?
  - Ⓐ Each year the crop was smaller, and the farmers were poorer.
  - Ⓑ Professor Carver taught the farmers that dead leaves could be added to the soil like fertilizer.
  - Ⓒ Planting sweet potatoes, peas, or peanuts in the fields helped increase the nutrients in the soil.
  - Ⓓ These new crops were foods that farmers could eat.

*Quick Check continued on following page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which of the following is an example of something Carver accomplished?
  - Ⓐ He became the first black professor at his college.
  - Ⓑ He successfully taught struggling farmers to fertilize and rotate crops.
  - Ⓒ He spoke before members of the U.S. Congress and encouraged them to help peanut farmers.
  - Ⓓ All of the above
6. What happened next after George was not allowed to stay at the Kansas college he planned to attend?
  - Ⓐ He received a scholarship to attend the college.
  - Ⓑ His friends encouraged him to try a different college.
  - Ⓒ Susan taught him to read and write.
  - Ⓓ He met Thomas Edison, who offered him a high-paying job.
7. Which of the following tells what an **inventor** is?
  - Ⓐ a person who creates, designs, or builds something that did not exist before
  - Ⓑ a farmer who works on lands owned by others in return for part of the profit from the crops
  - Ⓒ a college or university teacher who teaches in a specialized field
  - Ⓓ a person who raises livestock
8. Which sentence shows the great influence Carver had on the world?
  - Ⓐ His mother was a slave, so George was born a slave, too.
  - Ⓑ When George got to the college, he was not allowed to stay because the college did not accept black students.
  - Ⓒ He won the respect of a nation at a time when few black people got much respect at all.
  - Ⓓ He could not change the unfair conditions that kept many farmers in the South poor.

*Quick Check continued on following page*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of the following happened after Carver spoke for his full ten minutes in front of the U.S. Congress?
- Ⓐ Some of the members laughed and made fun of him.
  - Ⓑ He invented up to 300 uses for the peanut.
  - Ⓒ He went to Alabama to help the poor farmers there.
  - Ⓓ When his ten minutes were up, they asked him to speak more.
10. Which of the following is an opinion about George Washington Carver?
- Ⓐ Carver spent forty-seven years helping poor farmers.
  - Ⓑ Carver believed that people should treat each other with respect.
  - Ⓒ Carver believed that people should respect and care for the Earth.
  - Ⓓ Carver was a very interesting and intelligent man.

11. **Extended Response:** What are some problems Carver had to overcome that ultimately shaped who he was as a person?
12. **Extended Response:** How did Susan's teaching young George to read and write change his life, and how might George's life have been different if he hadn't been educated?

## Quick Check Answer Sheet

## George Washington Carver

Main Comprehension Skill: Elements of a Biography

1. **(B)** Elements of a Biography
2. **(C)** Vocabulary
3. **(B)** Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
4. **(A)** Main Idea and Details
5. **(D)** Elements of a Biography
6. **(B)** Sequence Events
7. **(A)** Vocabulary
8. **(C)** Elements of a Biography
9. **(D)** Sequence Events
10. **(D)** Fact or Opinion
11. Answers will vary but should include examples such as the following:  
*lost his mother as an infant, left home at twelve to go to school, survived disappointment when his first college turned him away because he was black, didn't give up his dream to attend college and attended Simpson College in Iowa, worked hard to identify solutions to the problems farmers were having, and so on.*
12. Answers will vary but should include examples such as the following:  
*without an early education, he may not have become so interested in learning, or he may not have realized that it was an option to go to school because there were no schools around for black children where he lived; she gave him the knowledge and confidence to take with him as he moved away at twelve to attend school; he wouldn't have had the opportunity to go to college and become a professor without having gone to school as a boy; he wouldn't have been able to take an interest in the outdoors and apply it to higher learning, inventing, and educating others.*