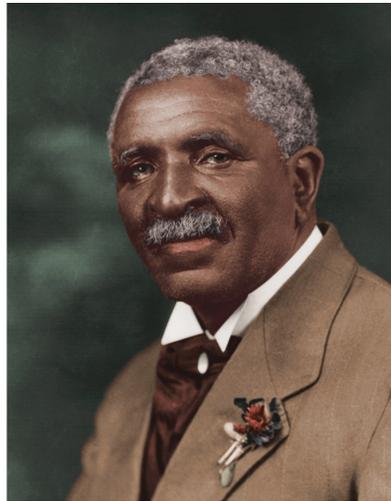


BIOBUS

THE FIRST MOBILE LABORATORY: Honoring Dr. George Washington Carver

One of the missions of BioBus is to highlight and continue the legacy of scientists that have changed the world through their educational and personal work. One of those people is George Washington Carver, who was a botanist, professor, scientist, and teacher.

Why Dr. Carver?



Carver was born as a slave and learned how to read and write from his masters. Although he was accepted to college, he was kicked out when the college realized that he was black. He later became the **first black student and the first black faculty member at Iowa State University.**

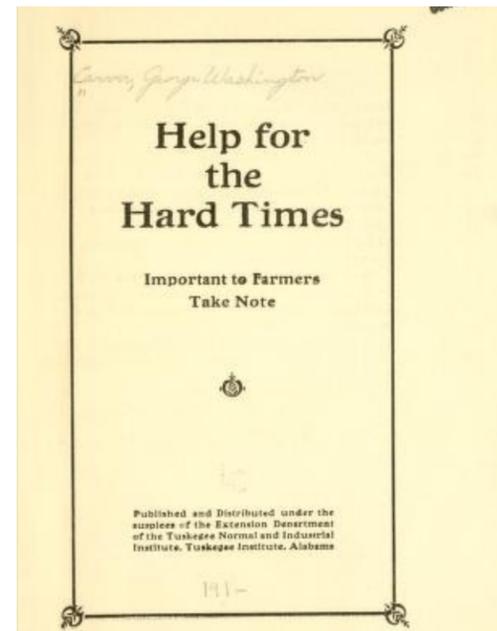
Carver was an active scientist and lecturer during a period of time when it was very dangerous to be black. The **Ku Klux Klan** was active, **Jim Crow laws** were enforcing segregation, and Congress didn't even try to pass **anti-lynching laws** that would prevent extreme acts of violence. Despite this, Carver operated as a high-profile scientist.

How did he help his community?

Carver's main priority was to make sure that his science was useful and directly relevant to his community. He wrote a guide to farming called "**Help for the Hard Times: Important to Farmers. Take Note**" that included lots of advice about planting crops and making money.

"If the farmers will follow the advice given by Prof. Carver, instead of the present low price of cotton proving a drawback it is going to prove a permanent blessing to all the people."

— Booker T. Washington



What was the Jesup Wagon?



Carver invented used the Jesup Wagon as a mobile lab and classroom which he used to demonstrate soil chemistry. It cost \$674 to build and was actually built by Carver's students at the Tuskegee Institute!

The wagon had **new farm tools, seeds, milk testers, education materials, and gardening supplies.** The lectures that were delivered were specialized by area and time of year, and covered topics ranging from soil testing, the use of new fertilizers, and methods of preserving food. At the end of the educational visits, it would be taken to the center of the community for an open Q&A session with local residents.

What's the Carver science?



Lots of black farmers at the time were planting cotton, because they could sell it to make money. But planting cotton over and over again was really bad for the soil, because it sucked all of the nutrients, like **nitrogen**, out of it and led to poor results. Carver wanted to help, so he taught the farmers about something called **crop rotation.**

By the Numbers

2,000

The number of farmers that the wagon reached during its first summer

30,000

The number of people who raised money for a second wagon