

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 20 - Teacher Guide



Booker T. Washington: Pioneering Pathways to Knowledge

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First Grade Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Determination
- Equality
- The Importance of Education

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Faith
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify Booker T. Washington and his contributions to education.
- Explain the importance of education in shaping one's future.
- Define equality.



Booker T. Washington - First Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **determination:** a quality that you show when you have decided to do something and you will not let anything stop you.
- 02 **education:** the process of gathering information about the world.
- 03 **equality:** when people are treated the same, regardless of what they look like or where they come from.
- 04 **opportunity:** a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do.

Booker T. Washington - First Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Think about the fun things that you get to do in school today. Make a list of your ten favorite activities to do at school. It is pretty easy to name ten fun things you get to do at school! Seeing your friends, learning new facts, reading new books, visiting the school library and playing on the playground are just a few! There are so many opportunities to learn and have fun at school. An opportunity is a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do. The opportunity to learn and grow is something that makes our country special.

ASK Students

Why are learning and going to school important?

TELL Students

Today we are going to learn about an important man named Booker T. Washington. Booker T. Washington believed in the power of education. Education is the process of gathering information about the world. We are going to learn why education is important. We are also going to learn about Booker T. Washington's life and his impact on education.

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 20: Booker T. Washington



Booker T. Washington - First Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

There was a time in America when some people couldn't go to school or learn to read and write, just because of the color of their skin. That is not fair, is it? After the Civil War, things started to change, but it was still hard for some people to get an education. Learning to read was very important. Reading meant you could become strong, smart, and do great things in life. Reading is still a superpower! It is the ticket to becoming strong, smart and doing great things in your life.

ASK Students

Why is it important for everyone to go to school?

TELL Students

Booker T. Washington understood how important education was for everyone, especially for Black people like him. He was born in 1856, and he had a tough life as a little boy. He was born as a slave on a farm. He didn't know his dad and his mom worked very hard as both a slave and a cook on the farm. Booker's life was like many Black children who lived during this time. He didn't have enough food to eat or a proper bed. He really wanted to learn and go to school, but back then, it was against the law for enslaved people like him to learn how to read and write.

Then, something amazing happened. The Union won the Civil War in 1865, and all the enslaved people, including Booker and his family, were freed! Now, he had a chance to go to a school for Black children, but he had to work too. One day, he heard about an amazing school called the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. He really wanted to go there, so he worked hard and saved his own money. He even walked a very long way to get there!

Young Booker T. Washington



Hampton Normal

Booker T. Washington - First Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What are some obstacles that Booker T. Washington had to overcome to go to school?

TELL Students

At Hampton, he learned many things like reading, farming, good manners, and how to talk in public. He worked hard and graduated with honors in 1875.

ASK Students

What did Booker T. Washington learn in school? Did he do his best in school?

TELL Students

Booker T. Washington later became the principal of a new school called the Tuskegee Normal School in Alabama. It was supposed to train Black teachers, but at first, the school didn't have much money or a building. However, Booker was determined. Determination is a quality that you show when you have decided to do something and you will not let anything stop you. With the help of the community and the students, the school opened in 1881. The school grew because of Booker's hard work. He made sure everything the students learned was useful. Booker believed that education could help Black people succeed and build their own lives. He said that everyone's work is important, whether it's farming or writing poems. He believed that hard work and learning could overcome challenges.

ASK Students

What did Booker T. Washington believe in?

TELL Students

Booker was a very important person. He was even invited by the President to the White House in 1901. Booker passed away in 1915, but his legacy lives on. He showed us that no matter where you come from or what you look like, you can succeed in life with hard work and determination. Today, we have many opportunities, and it is up to us to make the most of them.

ASK Students

Why did Booker T. Washington think education was so important? What does it mean to be determined? Why do you need to work hard in school?

Booker T. Washington – First Grade

Booker T. Washington's Journey

Objective: To introduce first grade students to the life and contributions of Booker T. Washington. To emphasize the importance of education in achieving one's dreams.

Materials:

- Large poster with a timeline (created in advance).
- Pictures or visuals of key moments in Booker T. Washington's life.
- Blank sheets of paper.
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Whiteboard and markers.
- Storytelling props (e.g., a graduation cap, books, a small chalkboard).

Introduction:

- Gather students in a circle and show them photos of Booker T. Washington from today's lesson.
- Ask students to recall what they learned about Booker T. Washington. As students recall what they have learned, use visuals to engage students and ask them questions about what they see.
- Use storytelling props, like books, a graduation cap and photos of Booker T. Washington.

Interactive Timeline Activity:

- Show the large poster with a timeline of key events in Booker T. Washington's life. It should include his birth, going to school, becoming a teacher, and founding the Tuskegee Institute.
- Ask students to match the pictures or visuals of key moments to the corresponding events on the timeline. This interactive activity reinforces the chronology of his life.

Discussion and Sharing:

- After completing the timeline activity, discuss what students learned about Booker T. Washington.
- Ask students if they have any questions or if there was a particular part of his life story that they found interesting.

Artistic Expression:

- Provide each student with a blank sheet of paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Ask students to draw a picture of what they want to learn. Encourage students to think about their dreams and how education can help them achieve them.
- Allow students to share their drawings with the class, explaining what they drew and why education is important to them.

Conclusion:

- Recap the lesson by emphasizing the importance of education in helping everyone achieve their dreams.
- Encourage students to keep learning and working hard in school so they can make their dreams come true.

Booker T. Washington - First Grade Resource List

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/african-americans-and-education-during-reconstruction-the-tolson-s-chapel-schools.htm>

Teddy and Booker T., Brian Kilmeade, 2023

<https://www.nps.gov/bowa/a-birthplace-that-experienced-slavery-the-civil-war-and-emancipation.htm>

<https://www.nps.gov/bowa/learn/photosmultimedia/index.htm>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4p2967.html>

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/discover-tu/tu-presidents/booker-t-washington>

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african-american-odyssey/reconstruction.html>

<https://americansall.org/legacy-story-group/jim-crow-laws-alabama-alaska-arizona-and-arkansas>

<https://www.nps.gov/bowa/learn/historyculture/atlanta2-1.htm>

https://huntingtonny.gov/filestorage/13747/99540/16499/Booker_T_Washington.pdf

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/discover-tu/tu-presidents/booker-t-washington>

