

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 20 - Teacher Guide



Booker T. Washington: Pioneering Pathways to Knowledge

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Fourth Grade Teacher Guide



Key Themes

- Determination
- Equality
- Hard Work
- 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 inequality.
- Define racial segregation.
- Analyze the relationship between hard work, education and success.



Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **advocate:** someone who stands up for someone else.
- 02 **determination:** a quality that you show when you have decided to do something and you will not let anything stop you.
- 03 **dignity:** being respected for who you are and what you believe in.
- 04 **education:** the process of gathering information about the world.
- 05 **equality:** when people are treated the same, regardless of what they look like or where they come from.
- 06 **inequality:** when some people lack the rights, opportunities and fair laws of others.
- 07 **inferior:** less important.
- 08 **racial segregation:** the separation of people into groups based on race alone.

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Think about this statement, "If you can't read, it's going to be hard to realize dreams."

ASK Students

What do you think this means? Why is reading important?

TELL Students

This is a quote, or statement, made by 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. You have the opportunity to get an education. But, you have to work hard to make the most of your opportunity. Booker T. Washington also said, "Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work."

ASK Students

What does this mean? Why is hard work important? How do you feel when you achieve something after putting in a lot of effort?

TELL Students

Booker T. Washington knew that education is important. He also knew that working hard is essential to achieving your dreams. Everyone faces challenges in life. In America, we have many opportunities, such as going to school, where we can work hard and overcome challenges. Today, we are going to learn why education and hard work are important. We are going to learn that while each is important, they are very powerful together. We are also going to learn about Booker T. Washington's life and impact on education.

WATCH

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



Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Do you ever find yourself wondering, "Why do I have to go to school?" When your parents enter your room and urge you to hurry up for breakfast, do you respond with, "Can I just have five more minutes?" Have you ever stopped to think about how fortunate you are to have the opportunity to attend school? There was a time in America when some people, because of their skin color, were not allowed to attend school or learn how to read and write. Today, we recognize that this was unfair and wrong.

Preventing people from going to school based on their skin color began to change after the Civil War ended. But it was still a significant challenge for Black individuals to get an education. For Black people during that period, the ability to read symbolized freedom. It meant they could be self-reliant, independent, and have the chance to thrive.

ASK Students

Why do you think getting an education was still a challenge for Black individuals after the Civil War? What does it mean to be self-reliant, independent and to thrive?

TELL Students

Booker T. Washington understood how important education was for the future success of Black Americans after the Civil War. Booker grew up to become an important advocate for Black Americans following the end of the Civil War. An advocate is someone who stands up for someone else. But, Booker was born into slavery. How did he overcome an obstacle like slavery? Let's find out! Please read the following passage independently. Please use a highlighter to mark important facts in the text. [Give each student a copy of the student text. Monitor the classroom and assist as needed while students read.]

Booker T. Washington was born on a farm in Franklin County, Virginia, when slavery was still happening. His mom, Jane, worked as a cook on the plantation, but he didn't know who his dad was. Life was really tough for Booker when he was a kid. He didn't always have enough food. He slept on a bundle of rags. On top of that, he had to do a lot of hard work on the farm.

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Lesson

Despite all these challenges, Booker really wanted to learn and go to school. But there was a big problem – it was against the law for enslaved people to read and write. However, when Booker was nine years old, something amazing happened. The Union won the Civil War in 1865, and that meant freedom for all the enslaved people in the South, including Booker and his family. They were no longer slaves, but now they had to figure out where to live, what jobs to do, and how to take care of themselves and each other.

ASK Students

What are some obstacles that Booker T. Washington had to overcome? How did life change for Booker and his family after the Civil War ended?

TELL Students

In 1865, Booker's family moved to West Virginia, where his step-father, Washington "Wash" Ferguson, was working. The family needed money so Booker started working. He even worked in a coal mine from the time he was 10 to 12 years old. But all the while, Booker had a strong desire, or determination, to go to school. His mother gave him a spelling book, and he spent hours studying it.

While working in the coal mines one day, Booker heard about an amazing school called the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia. It would cost money to attend, so he worked very hard and saved his money. During this time, he collected every book he could find and stored them in a dry goods box.

ASK Students

Why did Booker collect books? What does this tell you about how much he valued reading?

TELL Students

The following year, Booker was determined to go to Hampton. He walked nearly 500 miles to the school of his dreams. Please read the following passage to find out more about Booker's educational journey. Please use your highlighter to mark important or interesting details in the text. [Give each student a copy of the student text. Monitor the classroom and assist as needed while students read.]

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Lesson

To get into Hampton, Booker faced a very different kind of entrance exam compared to today's tests. Instead of answering multiple-choice questions, he had to clean a room! A teacher checked the room with a white handkerchief to make sure there was no dirt left. Booker did an excellent job and he was accepted into Hampton.

During his time at Hampton, Booker learned many different subjects. He learned regular school stuff like reading and math. But, he also learned about farming, good manners, personal hygiene, speaking in public, and debate. He worked really hard and did so well that he graduated with honors in 1875. What's even more impressive is that he was selected to give a speech at the graduation ceremony!

ASK Students

What did Booker T. Washington learn at Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute? What did Booker T. Washington have to do to accomplish his goals?

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. With the help of the community and the students, the school opened in 1881. The school grew because of the hard work and determination of Booker and the students. They built buildings, made bricks for the buildings and sold bricks for money.

ASK Students

What type of leader do you think Booker was?

TELL Students

Let's take a moment to look at what was happening in the southern United States when Booker arrived in Alabama. After the Civil War, efforts were made to ensure that former slaves could live freely and have opportunities to succeed. However, it wasn't as simple as it sounds. Many white people in the South were unhappy about losing the Civil War, and some of them still saw Black people as inferior, or less important. Many schools were racially segregated, meaning there were schools for Black children and often better schools for white children.

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Lesson

ASK Students

What does racial segregation mean? How do you think Booker responded to this tough situation?

TELL Students

Booker thought that the best way to make things better between Black and white people, help former slaves and their children, and remove inequality was by giving Black individuals the tools they needed to succeed on their own. Inequality is when some people lack the rights, opportunities and fair laws of others. Booker knew that Black people needed education and skills to build their own lives as free people and help their communities as active citizens.

ASK Students

What is inequality? What does it mean to be an active citizen?



W.E.B. Du Bois

Young Booker T. Washington



Booker T. Washington – Fourth Grade

Understanding School Segregation with Booker T. Washington

Objective: To help fourth grade students understand the concept of school segregation.

Materials:

1. Poster board or large sheets of paper.
2. Markers, colored pencils, or crayons.
3. Glue or tape.
4. Access to a computer or library resources for research.

Introduction:

Ask students to review what they learned about Booker T. Washington, inequality and racial segregation. Give students a few minutes to review what they highlighted in the text. Remind students that Booker T. Washington was determined to overcome obstacles and was dedicated to education. Mention that he played a significant role in improving educational opportunities for African Americans.

Research Activity:

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a specific aspect of Booker T. Washington's life or achievements related to education and school segregation. For example, one group could research his founding of the Tuskegee Institute. Other pertinent topics include: his life as a child growing up in slavery, his impact on education, his educational beliefs and the differences between Booker and W.E.B Du Bois. Have students use approved websites and library resources to research their topic.

Poster Creation:

Provide each group with poster boards or large sheets of paper. Instruct them to create a poster that showcases the information they found during their research. They should include key facts, dates, and images (if available) related to their assigned aspect of Booker T.

Washington's life.

Presentation:

Have each group present their posters to the class, explaining the significance of the information they found and how it relates to Booker T. Washington's efforts to improve education and challenge segregation.

Discussion:

Facilitate a class discussion about the impact of school segregation on Black students during Booker T. Washington's time. Encourage students to share their thoughts on how segregation made it challenging for Black students to receive a quality education.

Reflection:

Ask students to reflect individually or in pairs on the following questions: *How would you feel if you were not allowed to attend the same school as your friends because of your skin color? Why do you think education was so important to Booker T. Washington?*

Sharing and Conclusion:

Invite students to share their reflections with the class. Discuss their insights and encourage empathy for the challenges faced by Black students during the era of school segregation. Summarize the key points of the lesson, emphasizing Booker T. Washington's contributions to improving education and his commitment to breaking down racial barriers.

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Multiple Choice Review

1. What significant event happened in 1865 that changed the lives of enslaved people in the South?
 - a) the opening of Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute
 - b) the end of the Civil War
 - c) the invention of multiple-choice tests
 - d) the start of the Tuskegee Normal School
2. Why did Booker collect books before going to Hampton?
 - a) to sell them and make money
 - b) to use them as decorations in his room
 - c) to store his personal belongings
 - d) to continue his education
3. What kind of entrance exam did Booker have to pass to get into Hampton?
 - a) multiple-choice questions
 - b) a spelling test
 - c) cleaning a room
 - d) solving math problems
4. Which subjects did Booker study while attending Hampton?
 - a) academic subjects like reading and math
 - b) farming, good manners, and personal hygiene
 - c) only public speaking and debate
 - d) all of the above
5. Why did Booker T. Washington believe education was important for Black Americans?
 - a) to make them rely on others
 - b) to help them become active citizens
 - c) to help them impress other people
 - d) to increase inequality

6. What does the term "inequality" mean?
- a) treating everyone fairly and equally
 - b) some people having fewer rights and opportunities than others
 - c) a fair and just society
 - d) respecting people for their beliefs
7. How did Booker T. Washington's ideas differ from those of W.E.B. Du Bois?
- a) Du Bois believed in political action, while Booker believed in education.
 - b) Du Bois believed in racial segregation, while Booker did not.
 - c) Booker emphasized learning only academic skills like reading and writing, while Du Bois stressed that physical education was most important.
 - d) They both had the same ideas about education and civil rights.
8. What did Booker T. Washington encourage Black people to recognize?
- a) There is dignity in all kinds of work.
 - b) Education is not important.
 - c) They should give up on their dreams.
 - d) Challenges are more important than opportunities.
9. Why is education important, according to the passage?
- a) to make everyone rich
 - b) to help people become active citizens
 - c) to have more free time
 - d) to avoid doing hard work

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Review Answer Key

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Booker T. Washington - Fourth 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>

Booker T. Washington - Fourth Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Booker encouraged Black people to recognize that there is dignity in all kinds of work, whether it's farming or writing poetry, and not to let their challenges overshadow the opportunities available to them. Dignity means being respected for who you are and what you believe in.

While some people, like W.E.B. Du Bois, had different ideas and called for political action, Booker's influence as a speaker and thought leader made him the most important figure in the Black community at that time.

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ASK Students

How did Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois differ? Why was Booker T. Washington considered an important figure in the Black community?

TELL Students

Booker was a very important person. He was so influential that the President invited him 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 is education important? Why do you need to work hard in school?