

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 20 - Teacher Guide



Booker T. Washington: Pioneering Pathways to Knowledge

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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.
- Describe Booker T. Washington's contributions to education.
- Explain the importance of education in shaping one's future.



Booker T. Washington - Kindergarten

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 **opportunity:** a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do.

Booker T. Washington - Kindergarten

Introduction

TELL Students

Think about the fun things that you get to do in school today. Let's make a list of these things together. Make a list on the board or on chart paper. Prompt students to think about fun things in school such as: learning new facts, playing on the playground or in centers and reading new books. Once you have created the list, have students vote on their favorite activity. Tell students that going to school is an opportunity. An opportunity is a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do. Explain that a long time ago, not everyone had the same opportunity to go to school.

ASK Students

Why is learning 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. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about Booker T. Washington and the importance of education.

WATCH

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



Booker T. Washington - Kindergarten 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 a superpower for them. It meant people had the chance to become strong, smart, and do great things in life.

ASK Students

Why is it important for everyone to go to school?

TELL Students

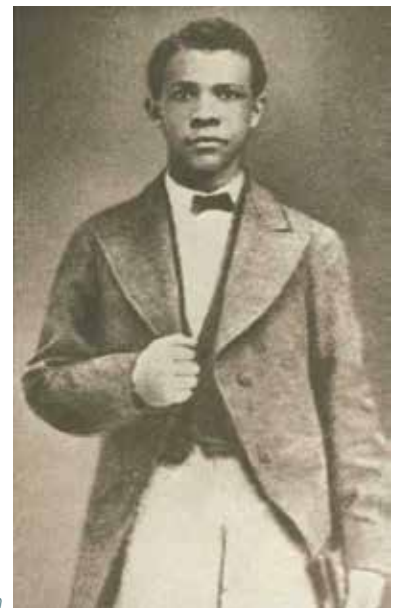
Booker T. Washington understood how important education was for everyone, especially for Black people like him. He was born a long time ago and he had a tough life as a little boy. He was born as a slave on a farm. He didn't know his dad and his mom worked very hard as both a slave and a cook on the farm. Booker's life was like many Black children who lived during this time.

He didn't have enough food to eat. He didn't even have a proper bed. He really, 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!

Finally, he got 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 attend this school, so he worked hard and saved his own money. He even walked a long way to get to school!



Hampton Normal



Young Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington - Kindergarten Lesson

ASK Students

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

TELL Students

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

ASK Students

What did Booker learn at school?

TELL Students

Booker 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 a small shack 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 in the Black community. 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? Why is it important to work hard in school?

Booker T. Washington – Kindergarten

Dream Big with Booker T. Washington

Objective: Students will learn about Booker T. Washington and his belief in the importance of education. Students will understand that hard work and education can help them achieve their dreams.

Materials Needed:

- Pictures of Booker T. Washington
- Blank pieces of paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Small chalkboard
- Graduation cap

Introduction:

- Gather students and discuss what they learned about Booker T. Washington in today's lesson.
- Ask students why Booker T. Washington thought education was important.

Art and Craft:

- Provide each student with a blank piece of paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
- Explain that just like Booker T. Washington believed in the power of education, they can also dream big and think about what they want to learn when they go to school.
- Encourage students to draw a picture of something they want to learn at school. Examples include reading, math, drawing, or even something fun like playing with friends.
- After they finish drawing, have students share their drawings with the class. Ask them to describe what they drew and what they want to learn.

Discussion and Chalkboard Activity:

- Show the children a graduation cap.
- Explain that when we work hard and learn in school, we can achieve our dreams, just like

Booker T. Washington did.

- Write this message on the chalkboard: "Education Helps Us Achieve Our Dreams."
- Invite students to draw something on the chalkboard that represents their dream or what they want to learn. Have students wear the graduation cap one at a time in front of their drawing. Take each student's photo. Print the photos and post them in the classroom to remind students to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Wrap-up:

- Reiterate the importance of education and encourage students to keep dreaming big and working hard in school.
- Remind students that they can achieve great things just like Booker T. Washington by learning and never giving up on their dreams.

Booker T. Washington - Kindergarten 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>

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