

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER



Born a slave in Missouri, Carver, a scientist, did research into the use of alternative crops to cotton, such as peanuts, soybeans and sweet potatoes.

He developed and promoted about 100 products made from peanuts that were useful for the house and farms, including cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline, nitroglycerin and peanut butter!

Carver earned a master's degree from Iowa State University, and his work in plant pathology and mycology gained him national recognition and respect as a botanist. He headed the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute for many years and worked tirelessly to promote the school, racial harmony, and the peanut. He received numerous honors for his work, testified before Congress, met with presidents and held many patents.