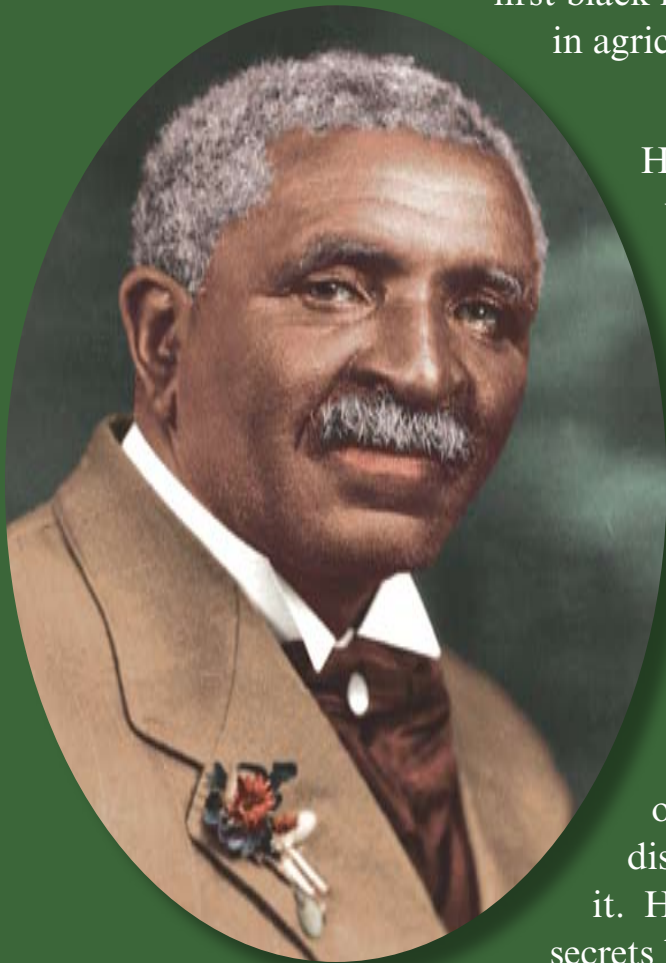


# George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was born a slave in 1864. After the Civil War, he became an important scientist. He was the first black man to receive a graduate degree in agriculture.



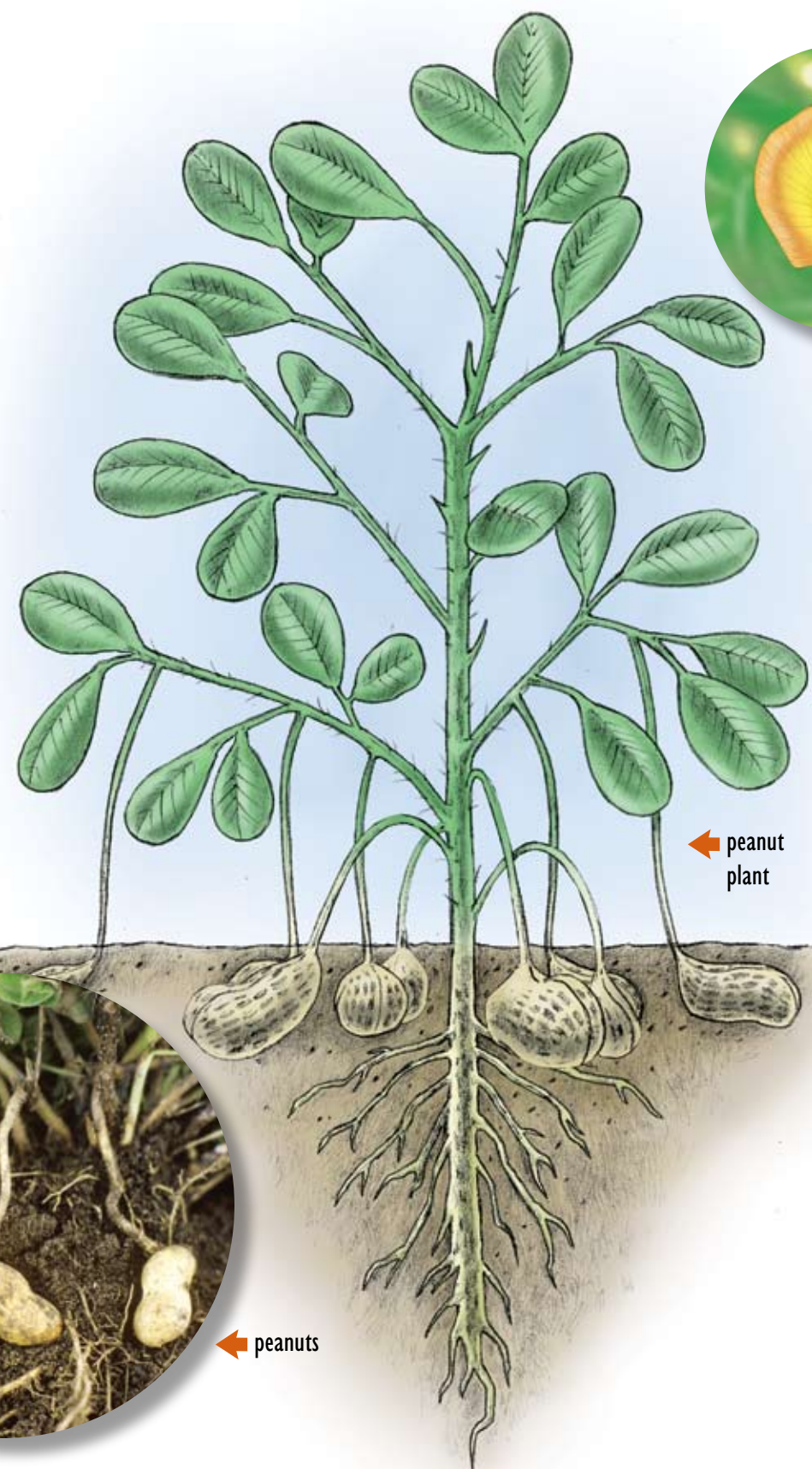
↑ George Washington Carver in 1915

Carver was a skilled **botanist**. He became famous for his work with peanuts and other plants. He used them to make new products. Carver was also a great teacher. He taught both students and farmers **crop-rotation** methods. That meant they would change the crops they planted each season. It let the soil rest between plantings to keep it healthy.

Carver was a great scientist, but he was humble, too. He was offered a lot of money for his discoveries. But he never accepted it. He believed the plants and their secrets belonged to everyone.

## Many Uses for the Peanut

Carver may be best known for the detailed and amazing work he did with the peanut. He found over 300 uses for it!



↑ A peanut flower becomes a peanut.

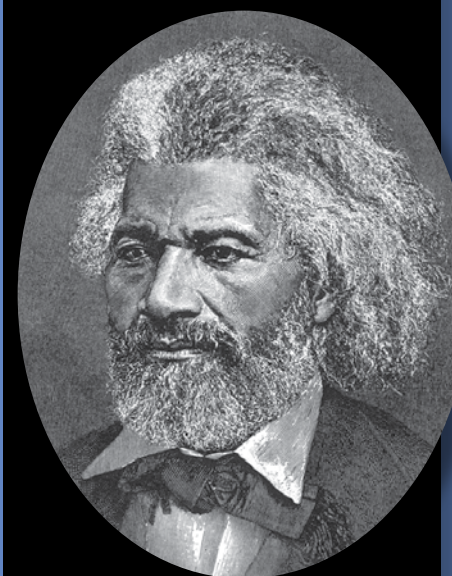


### What Is an Abolitionist?

For many years, slavery was legal in North America. Abolitionists were people who believed that slavery was wrong and should be illegal. The word comes from *abolish*, which means to destroy. That's what they wanted to do to slavery.

### A Big Reward

The reward Moses Carver offered for finding his slaves was worth \$1,100. That was a lot of money for the time!



↑ Frederick Douglass was a well-known abolitionist.

## Born a Slave

Carver had a brother named Jim. Their mother's name was Mary, and she was a slave. She was bought by a German couple named Moses and Susan Carver. They did not approve of slavery, but still they used slaves as workers for their farm. The Carvers treated Mary and her children well, though.

Slave raiders kidnapped Carver and his mother when he was just an infant. John Bentley, the Carvers' neighbor, took the job of finding them. Moses offered a reward for their safe return. He would give 40 acres of prime **timberland** and one of his racehorses.

↑ Slaves were used to harvest cotton and other crops.

Carver was found abandoned along the road in Arkansas. He was more dead than alive. His mother was not found. Carver and his brother had no living relatives. So the Carvers raised them as their own children. Carver was sickly and weak. He could not do work in the fields. So, he helped with the laundry, cooked, and learned to sew.