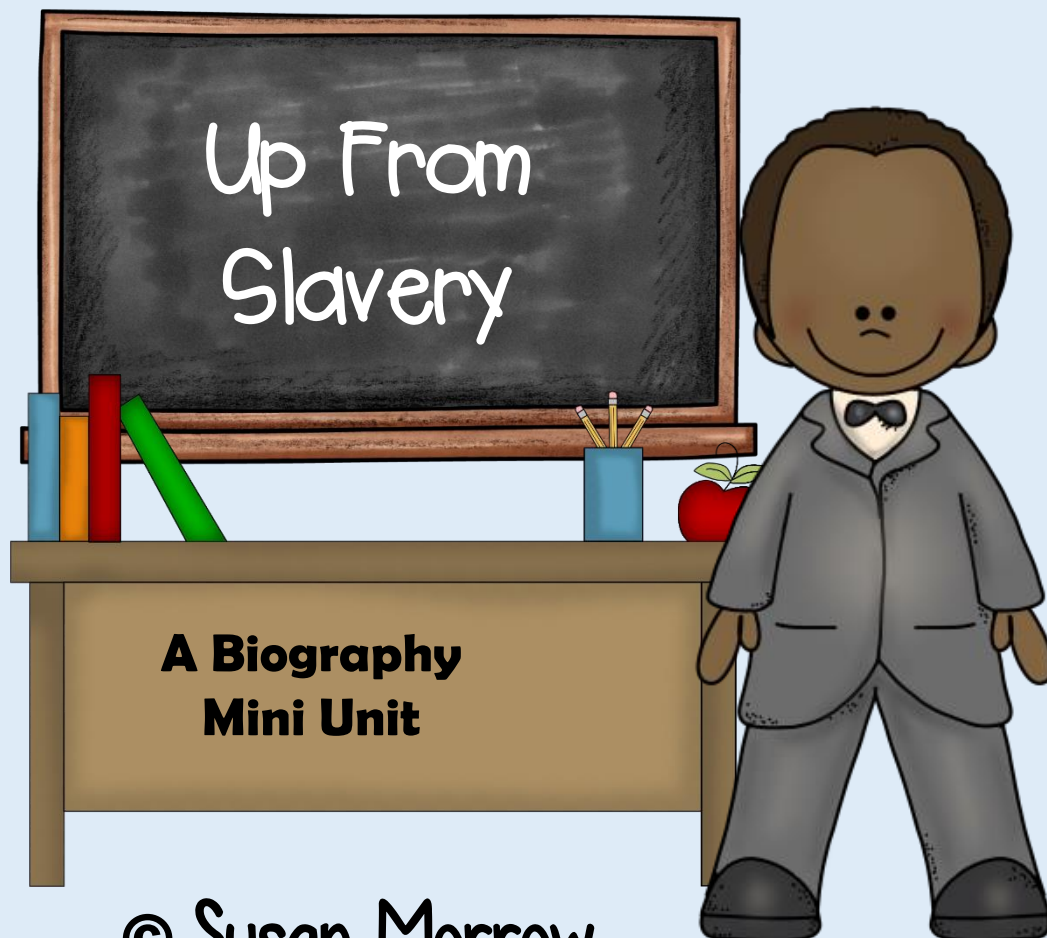


# **Famous African Americans: Booker T. Washington**

**African American Educator and Author**



**A Biography  
Mini Unit**

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# **Famous African Americans: Booker T. Washington**

This product is a mini unit on the life of Booker T. Washington, a famous African American educator, author, and head of Tuskegee Institute. This unit is part of my Famous African-Americans mini biography series.

This unit can stand alone with the included biography or can incorporate the picture book *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby.

This unit includes:

- Booker T. Washington original biography – 740 Lexile and 678 words so it would be appropriate for advanced 2<sup>nd</sup> graders through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Comprehension Question Cards for the included biography – great for literature circles!
- Vocabulary cards and matching definitions, and a vocabulary foldable
- Booker T. Washington character foldable with an I Am Booker T. Washington bio poem on the inside.
- Walk in my footsteps Booker T. Washington – accordion book retelling/sequencing activity
- Booker T. Washington bio graphic organizer
- Summarization Activity – Someone Wanted But So
- The Important Thing About Booker T. Washington activity – determining importance. This activity is modeled after the book *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown
- Cause and Effect activity with graphic organizer
- I've Got to Hand It To You! Booker T. Washington – activity where students write 5 accomplishments or character traits on the fingers of a hand. Great to cut out and display on a bulletin board.
- Venn Diagrams where students compare themselves to Booker T. Washington. Includes boy and girl versions with and without lines.
- Design a Postage Stamp for Booker T. Washington
- Booker T. Washington Fact/Opinion Sort
- The Importance of an Education opinion writing activity
- Blank Booker T. Washington writing paper

# Famous African Americans: Booker T. Washington Directions

I like to begin this unit by having the students read the 2-page biography included in the unit. This biography has a 740 Lexile and 678 words.

**Comprehension Questions** - There are 20 higher level comprehension questions to accompany the text. There are also blank question cards so you can create your own questions. You may use these questions several different ways. I like to print them out on cardstock and laminate them. Next I punch a hole and attach a ring to them and let the students use them in literature circles. You can also cut out the prompt and glue it onto the writing page if you would prefer the students to give a written response. These are deep thinking questions which the students will not be able to answer in just one sentence.

**Vocabulary Cards:** There are 8 vocabulary words that I focus on in this unit. There is a vocabulary card and a matching definition card for each one. You may use them on a Word Wall or to play a matching game. There is also a Vocabulary Foldable included where the students can write the definitions for each vocabulary word. To assemble the foldable: 1. Fold it in half hot dog style. Cut along the black line at the top and the bottom of the page. Next, cut the line under each vocabulary word to the thick black line on the left that has the title of the activity. Do not cut all the way to the fold. You should now have 4 flaps. Fold each flap back to the solid line and have the students write the definition for each word under the flap.

**Booker T. Washington character foldable with I Am Booker T. Washington bio poem on the inside.** This is two pages. You will need to print them out back to back. The students will color the picture of Booker T. Washington on the outside – this is shown as two halves. Next, they will cut along the dotted lines and make a shutter fold to the center of the page. The easiest way to do this accurately is to have the students fold the page in half but only make a small crease at the top and bottom. This will show them the line to fold each end toward to make the shutter fold. Students will then complete the I Am Poem about Booker T. Washington on the inside of the shutter. The outside of the shutter represents what you see when you look at Booker T., but the inside represents the things about her you cannot see just by looking at her. I love to put these up on a bulletin board. They look so cute!

# Famous African Americans:

## Booker T. Washington Directions

**Walk In the Footsteps of Booker T. Washington accordion book foldable activity:** In this activity, the students write significant events in the life of Booker T. Washington on the individual footprints. They need to refer to the story to make sure they put them in order! You will need to print out just one copy of the first page and several copies of the second page, depending on how many events the children want to record. I like to print these out on cardstock to give them more durability. Cut out the cards along the dark dotted line and fold them along the light grey line. Match the pages up and use a glue stick to glue the small flap on the right side of the page to the back of the left side of the next page. The left side of the page is always on the top and the small flap is always folded toward the front. You will place the second page on **top** of the flap and then glue the left side of the page to the flap.

**Booker T. Washington bio graphic organizer** – This is a fun graphic organizer for students to record significant facts about Booker T. including childhood, character traits, a quote, obstacles she overcame and accomplishments.

**Summarization Activity – Someone Wanted But So** – Summarization is key to comprehension and a skill that increases student performance on achievement tests. This is a cute way for students to summarize the entire story in just four sentences!

**The Important Thing About Booker T. Washington activity** – This activity has students focusing on summarization and determining importance in text. This activity is modeled after the book *The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown and is great for students who have difficulty in determining what are primary facts or main ideas and supporting details. The first line of the book should be the main idea or most important fact about Booker T. Washington. Most students should say that he was a famous African American educator and writer. The next sentences are simply supporting details about his life. The last sentence, "But the most important thing about Booker T. Washington" is a repeat of the first sentence.

**Cause and Effect activity with graphic organizer** – Have the students refer to the text to complete the cause/or effect activity.

# Famous African Americans:

## Booker T. Washington Directions

**I've Got to Hand It To You! Booker T. Washington** – I love this activity! Students color the hand and picture of Booker T. and write 5 accomplishments or character traits on the fingers of a hand. I like to cut them out and display on a bulletin board.

**Design a Postage Stamp for Booker T. Washington** – This activity is pretty self explanatory. The students design a postage stamp for Booker T..

**Venn Diagrams** - Allows students to compare and contrast their lives with Booker T. Washington. Includes boy and girl versions with and without lines.

**Booker T. Washington Fact and Opinion Sort** – Students sort cards onto recording mats for facts and opinions about BTW. There is also a recording sheet and answer key.

**The Importance of an Education Opinion Writing Activity** – Students write their opinion of the importance of an education. Includes a prewriting graphic organizer and a rubric.

### **How to use these activities:**

You may use these activities in several ways. If you are purchasing other biographies of famous African Americans in this series, you may wish to have groups of students study different people. If you are doing this with the whole class, you may wish to have several activities that all students complete and others available for early finishers. Another idea is to create a Tic-Tac-Toe where students complete three of the nine activities. I have included a variety of activities so that you may pick and choose the ones that you feel are most appropriate for the students in your class!

# Booker T. Washington



Booker T. Washington was born a slave in 1836. His mother worked as a cook on the plantation where they lived. Booker and his mother lived in a large one room cabin which had a large fireplace and a dirt floor. Booker and his brother and sister slept on a pallet on the dirt floor. Their house was also the kitchen for the plantation.

Booker had chores on the plantation. He had to clean the yards and carry water to the men in the fields. He also had to take the corn to the mill to be ground.

As a slave, Booker T. did not go to school. After the Civil War ended, Booker and his mother, half-sister, and half-brother moved to Malden, West Virginia. Booker's stepfather had found work in the salt mines, and young Booker went to work. Every day his job was to pack salt into big bags. It was exhausting work. Often Booker went to work as early as four o'clock in the morning.

Booker had a burning desire to learn to read. His mother got him a copy of a spelling book which contained the alphabet. Booker worked hard to learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. He learned to put the sounds together to make words.

Shortly thereafter, a small school opened for black children. Booker was so excited! Sadly, his stepfather decided the family needed the money Booker could make in the salt mines. Booker had to work and could not attend the school. He was so disappointed. He made arrangements with the teacher to take some lessons at night after he had completed his work for the day.

Finally, Booker was allowed to go to school for a few months. He had to work in the furnace in the salt mine until nine o'clock in the morning. After he finished school in the afternoon, Booker would return to the salt furnace and work two more hours. Booker did not attend school for long. He had to return to working full time at the salt furnace. Once again, he had to go to school at night.

When Booker was older, he went to work in the coal mine. He hated working in the coal mine because he had a hard time getting clean. It was a dangerous job. The mines were dark. There was also the danger of being blown up or crushed by falling rocks.

When Booker was around 16, he left home and went to school at Hampton Institute. He worked odd jobs as a janitor to help pay for his schooling. Later, because of his hard work, he got a scholarship to attend the school.

After college, Booker taught for three years in a school for African American children. He later headed up the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a college for African Americans. Booker got a \$200 loan to purchase the land for the college. Students built the first buildings. They also raised the crops that supplied food for the students. Booker helped Tuskegee become a leading college in the United States.

Booker T. was known as a leader for African Americans. He gave many speeches and wrote books. One of his books was *Up From Slavery*, an autobiography. In his autobiography, Booker encouraged black people to achieve success. He wrote about the importance of an education and developing skills needed to find work. He also wrote about working hard to overcome obstacles and developing a good character.

In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt invited Booker T. to the White House for dinner. Booker was the first African American to be invited to the White House.

Booker remained the head of Tuskegee Institute until he died in 1915. He was 59 years old. Booker once said, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome." Born a slave, Booker T. Washington overcame many obstacles to obtain an education and to become an important African American in U.S. history.

What are three words you would use to describe Booker T.? Cite evidence from the text.

What are two things Booker T. did which helped him become successful? Cite evidence from the text.

What person do you think had the greatest influence on Booker T.'s life? Why do you think that?

What were some of the obstacles Booker overcame in his life? Cite evidence from the text.

What are some ways Booker tried to help other African Americans? Cite evidence from the text.

How did Booker T. Washington measure success? Cite evidence from the text.

If Booker lived today, how do you think his life might have been different?

What event in Booker's life had the greatest influence on him? Why do you think that?

How did Booker feel about working in the salt and coal mines. Cite evidence from the text.

How did Booker handle the obstacles he encountered? What is the evidence from the text?

What is Booker T. Washington's legacy to the world? Cite evidence from the text.

Persistence means to not give up easily or to stick to a task or goal until it is finished. How did Booker demonstrate persistence?

What character traits helped Booker accomplish his goals?

If you could interview Booker T. Washington today, what are 3 questions you would want to ask him?

What is a lesson to learn from this story? Explain.

If you had to compare Booker to a man living today, who would you select? Why?

What were some things that Booker did to become successful? Cite evidence from the text.

If you had to pick a symbol to represent Booker, what would it be? Why?

How was Booker's childhood different from most kids today? Cite evidence from the text.

Booker had to be strong to work in the salt mines all day long. Do you think Booker is stronger on the outside than on the inside? Why or why not?

# VOCABULARY CARDS

autobiography

plantation

furnace

obstacles

janitor

success

scholarship

speeches

## DEFINITION CARDS

a book someone  
writes about his or  
her own life

a large area of  
land where crops  
are grown

a closed structure  
in which heat is  
produced

something that  
stands in the way  
or blocks  
something

a person who takes  
care of and cleans  
a building

to gain wealth,  
respect, or fame

money given to a  
student to help pay  
for his or her  
education

to give a talk about  
a subject in public

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON VOCABULARY

autobiography

furnace

janitor

scholarship

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON VOCABULARY

plantation

obstacles

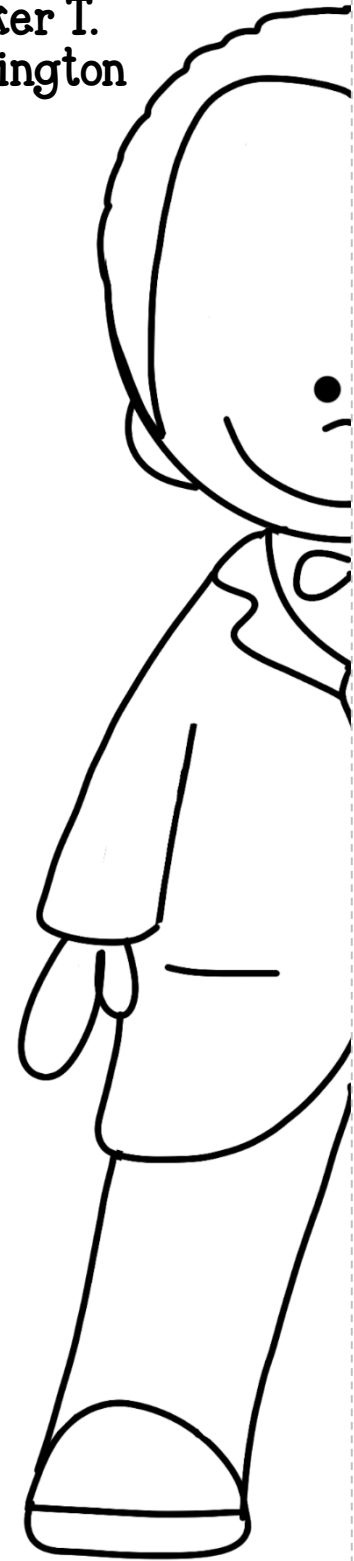
success

speeches

African  
American  
educator &  
author



Booker T.  
Washington



# I Am Booker T. Washington

I am \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

I wonder \_\_\_\_\_.

I like \_\_\_\_\_.

I see \_\_\_\_\_.

I want \_\_\_\_\_.

I feel \_\_\_\_\_.

I worry \_\_\_\_\_.

I believe \_\_\_\_\_.

I dream \_\_\_\_\_.

I hope \_\_\_\_\_.

I Am Booker T. Washington

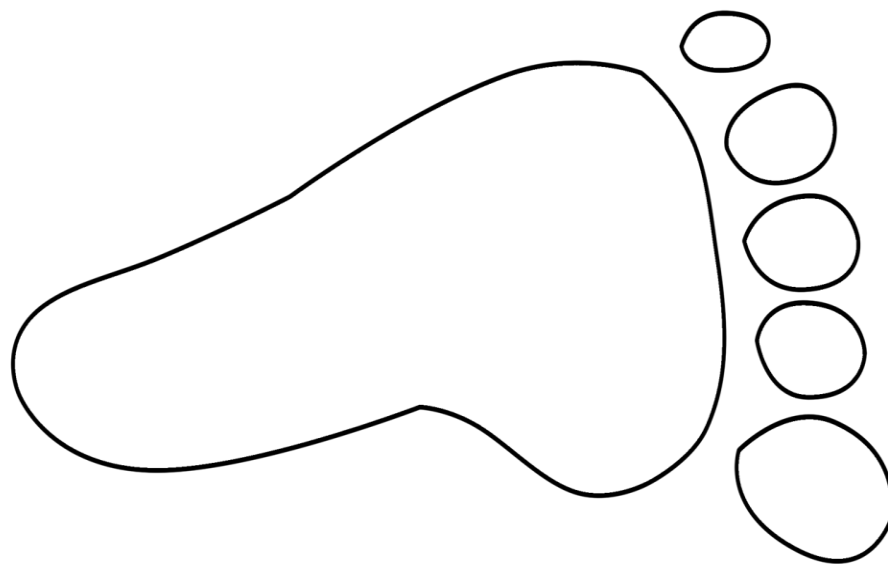
# Walk in My Footsteps



fold

Fold & glue

Walk in the Footsteps  
of  
Booker T. Washington

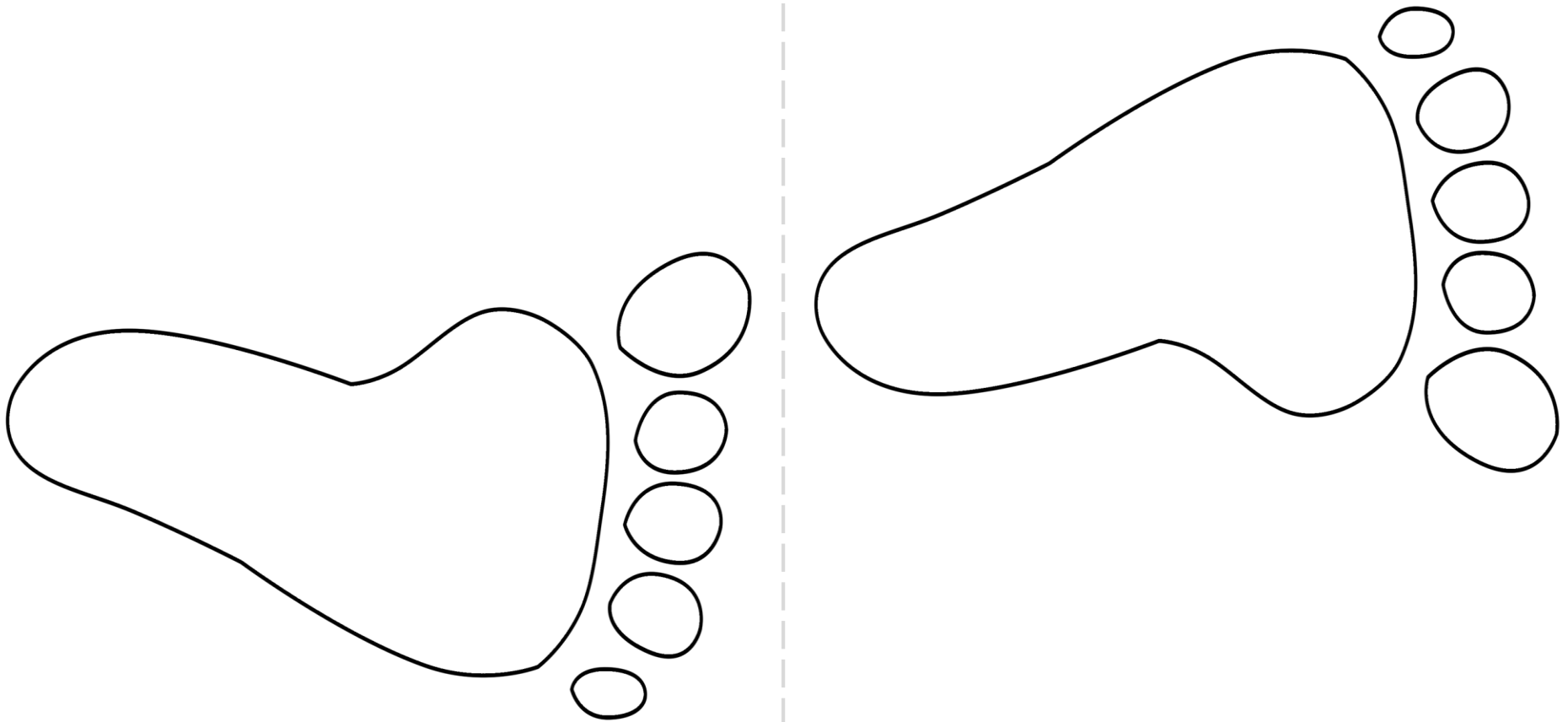


# Walk in My Footsteps



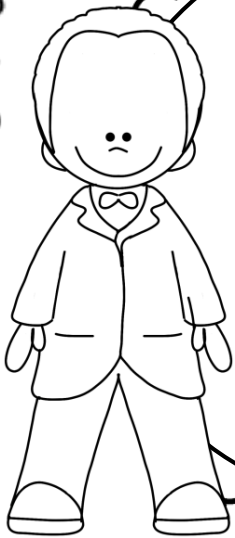
fold

Fold & glue

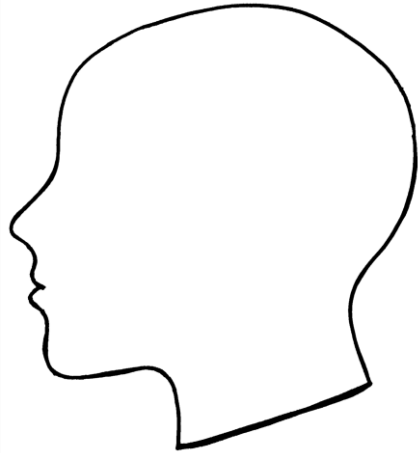


# Booker T. Washington

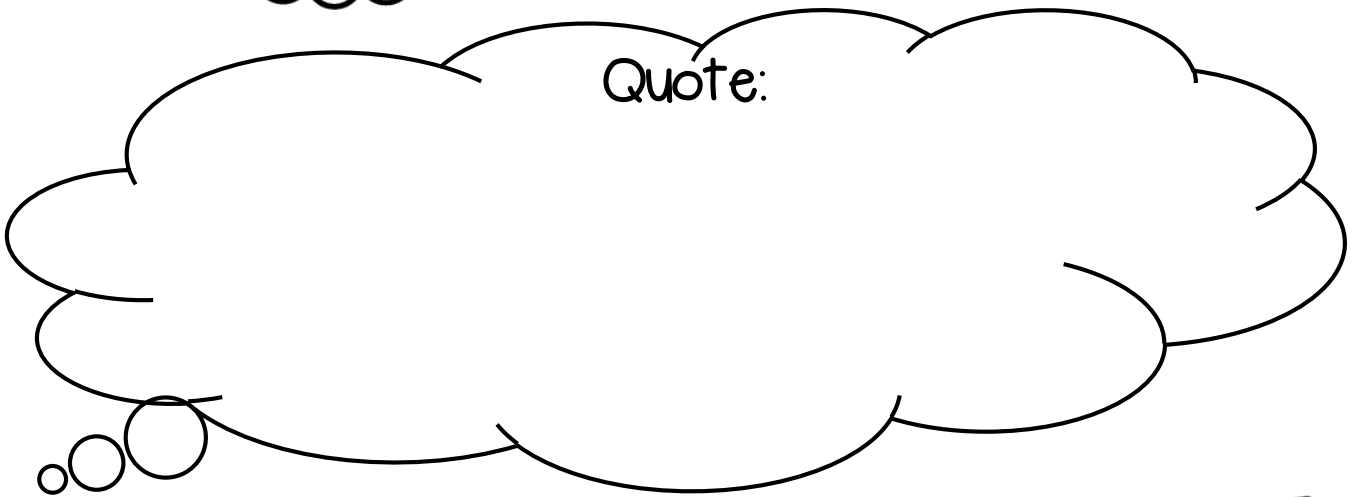
Childhood



Character Traits



Quote:



Obstacles



Accomplishments:



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Someone Wanted But So

You can summarize the entire story of Booker T. Washington in four sentences. Try it!

Booker T. Washington wanted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

But, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

So, \_\_\_\_\_

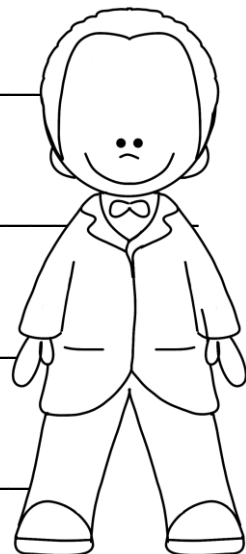
\_\_\_\_\_

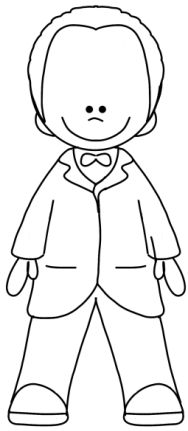
\_\_\_\_\_

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

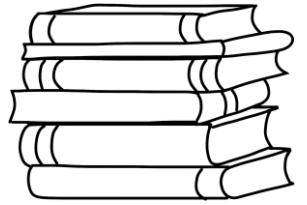
\_\_\_\_\_





# The Important Thing About Booker T. Washington

By \_\_\_\_\_



The most important thing about Booker T. Washington is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

He \_\_\_\_\_.

But the most important thing about Booker T. Washington is \_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Cause and Effect

Refer to the story of *Booker T. Washington* and write a cause or effect in the boxes below.

## Cause

Booker's mother gave him a spelling book which contained the alphabet.



## Effect

## Cause



## Effect

Booker could not attend the school for black children.

## Cause

Booker worked as a janitor at Hampton Institute.



## Effect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Cause and Effect

Refer to the story of *Booker T. Washington* and write a cause or effect in the boxes below.

## Cause

Booker headed up the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, a college for African Americans

## Effect

## Cause

## Effect

Booker T. Washington wrote his autobiography.

## Cause

## Effect

Booker T. Washington was the first African American to eat dinner in the White House.

# I've Got to Hand It To You!

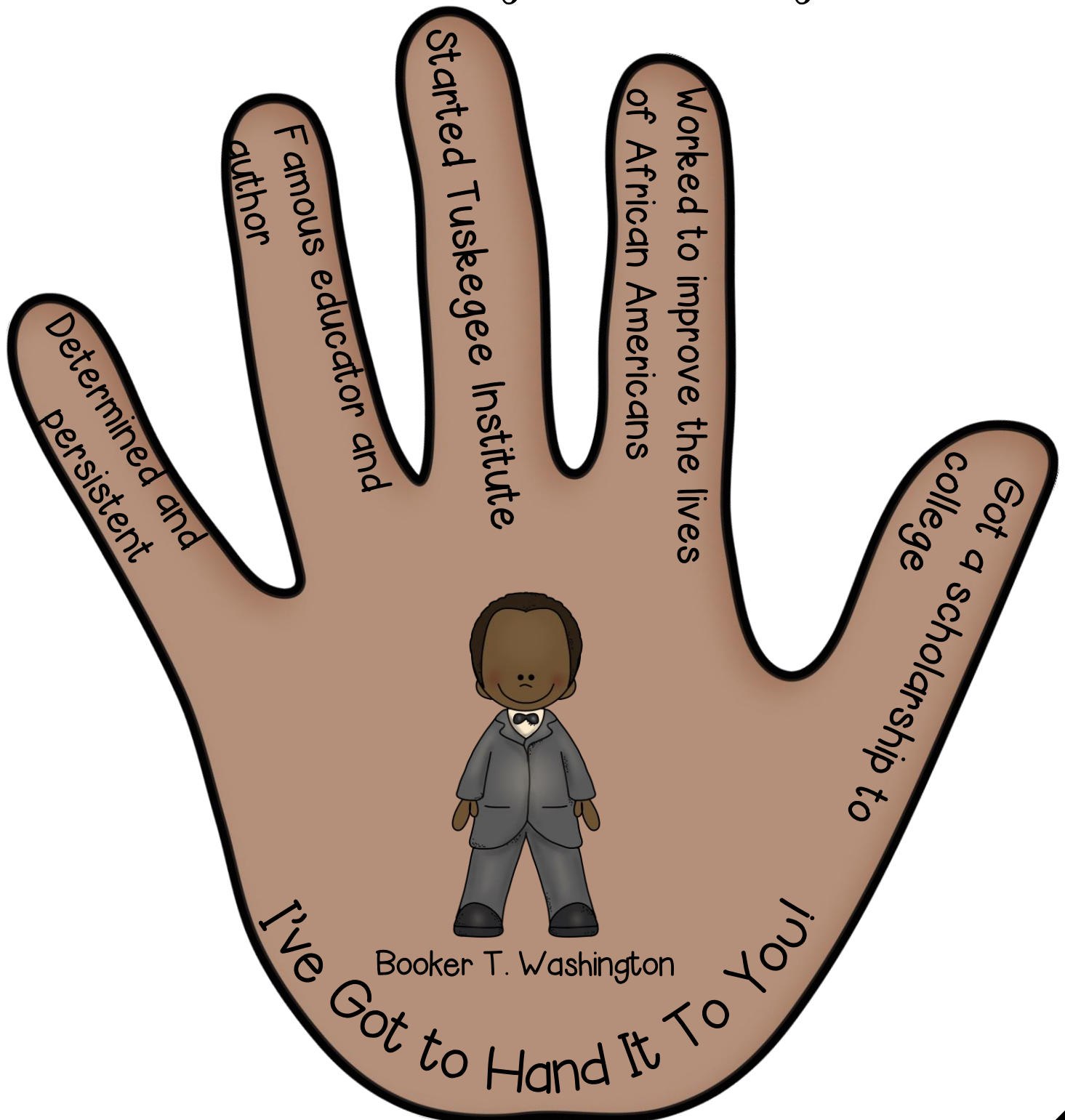
Write character traits or accomplishments of  
Booker T. Washington on each finger.



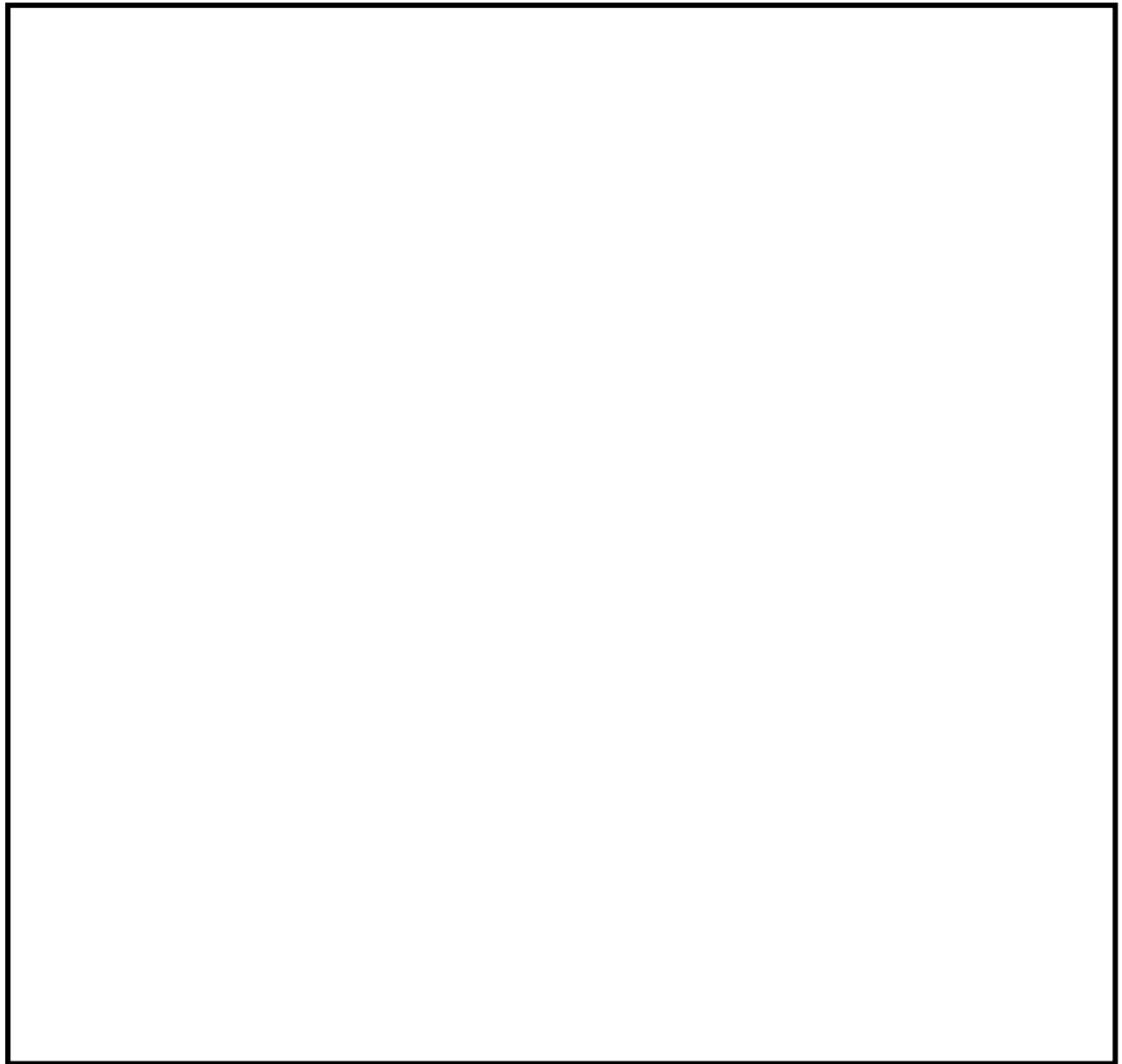
# Example:

## I've Got to Hand It To You!

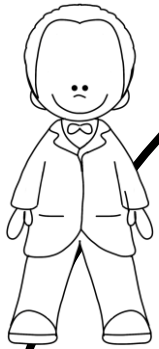
Write character traits or accomplishments of  
Booker T. Washington on each finger.



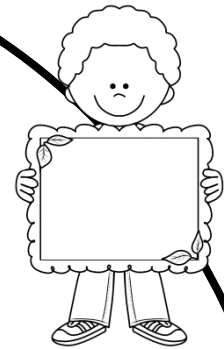
# Design a Postage Stamp for Booker T.



Booker T. Washington

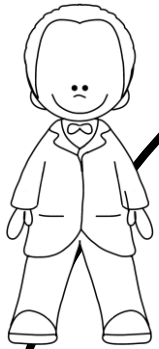


Me

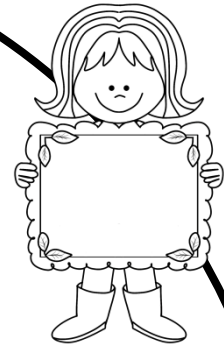


Both

Booker T. Washington

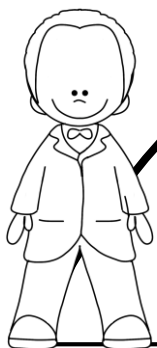


Me



Both

Booker T. Washington

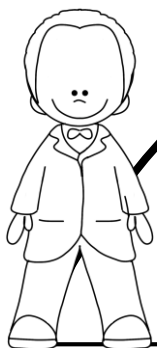


Me

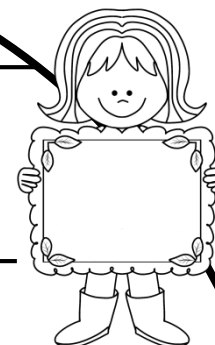


Both

Booker T. Washington



Me



Both

# FACT

A fact states something that is true or can be proven.

Example: **Booker T. Washington's mother gave him his first book.**



# Opinion

An opinion is an expression of feeling or what a person believes.

Example: **Booker T. Washington was afraid to work in the mines.**



Booker T. Washington  
was born a slave.



1

As a young boy,  
Booker T. Washington  
had too much work  
to do.



2

Booker T. Washington  
was too tired from  
working  
to go to school.




3

When Booker T.  
Washington went to  
school, blacks and whites  
attended  
separate schools.




4




Booker T. Washington  
worked harder than  
his friends to  
get an education.

5




Booker's T's stepfather  
was mean because he  
made Booker work  
instead of going to  
school.

6



Booker T. Washington  
wrote an  
autobiography.

7



Booker T. Washington was  
the first African  
American to be invited  
to the white house for  
dinner.

8

Booker T. Washington  
gave many speeches.



9

Booker T. Washington  
got a scholarship to  
attend college.



10

Booker T. Washington  
was an excellent  
writer.



11

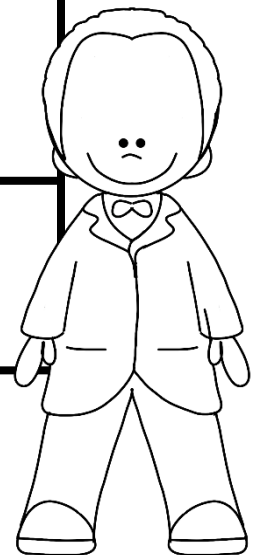
Booker T. Washington  
worked in the salt mines  
as a young boy.



12

# Booker T. Washington Fact and Opinion Answer Key

1. Fact	7. Fact
2. Opinion	8. Fact
3. Opinion	9. Fact
4. Fact	10. Fact
5. Opinion	11. Opinion
6. Opinion	12. Fact

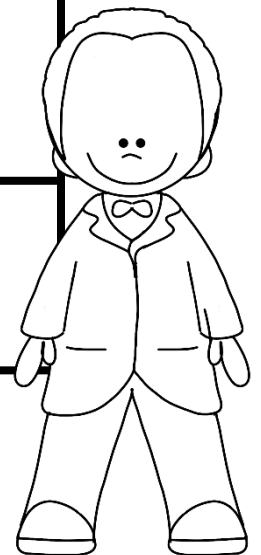


Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Booker T. Washington Fact and Opinion Recording Sheet

1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Booker T. Washington felt that it was important to get an education. How important do you think education is to achieve success in life? Complete the My Opinion graphic organizer and then write your opinion about the importance of getting an education in the space below.



## The Importance of an Education



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal lines.



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*Remember to always...*



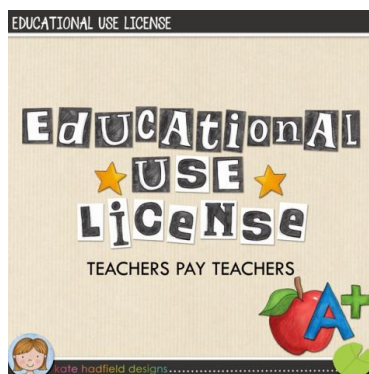
*Susan Morrow*

# CREDITS

Thank you to all the wonderful graphic artists whose work made this product possible! Please check out their work!



Melonheadz



Original artwork by Kate Hadfield

