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Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to check your understanding of new information or difficult facts.

# From Slave to Scientist

George Washington Carver was an African American born into slavery in the South. He went on to become an agricultural chemist. He also taught and did research. His research made him well known, but teaching the children of former slaves may have meant more to him.

### **Early Years**

Carver was the son of a slave woman owned by Moses Carver. As a child, Carver was greatly interested in plants. When he walked in the woods, he would collect different types. He loved to learn. He learned to read and write when he was still a young boy. At first he was taught at home. Then when he was about 11 years old, he went to a school for black children.

For the next 20 years, Carver worked his way through school. In 1890 he started college. He showed skill as an artist, but he wanted a career in agriculture. Carver hoped that his work would help African Americans in the South. Many of them worked on farms. Carver finished college in 1894. Then he earned a master's degree in 1896.

## **Tuskegee Instructor and Researcher**

Carver then moved to Alabama to teach at the Tuskegee Institute. This was a school for African Americans. Carver became head of the agriculture department.

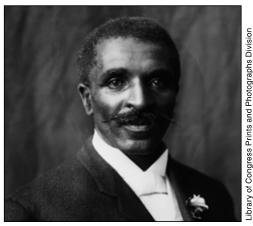
Carver and his capable students ran experiments to test the soil in Alabama. Through these tests, the students could find out which kinds of plants would grow well there.

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In later years, Carver led other research projects to help southern farmers. He looked for ways that farmers could grow more crops. His teams ran experiments in soil management and crop production. He also managed an experimental farm. There his students planted different types of crops to see which ones would grow best.

The soil in many places in the South was ruined by the planting of only cotton. Cotton had been planted year after year. Carver told local farmers to plant peanuts and sweet potatoes. He found that these crops would grow well in the Alabama soil. They would also put health back into the soil.

Through research, Carver found that peanuts could be made into many kinds of items. He made at least 300 products from peanuts. Some of these were cheese, milk, and soap. Sweet potatoes



Carver developed hundreds of foods and other products from peanuts and sweet potatoes.

also turned out to have many uses. Carver made more than 100 products from sweet potatoes. Flour, ink, and glue were a few of these.

In 1914 Carver published information about his research. As a result, many more farmers began to raise peanuts and sweet potatoes. In 1921 Carver spoke before Congress. He explained the value of peanut production. The peanut became a leading crop in the country. Carver freed the South from its dependence on cotton.

#### **Later Years**

In 1940, Carver gave his life savings to the Tuskegee Institute. The funds were used to create the George Washington Carver Research Foundation. Carver died in 1943. He is buried on the grounds of the Tuskegee Institute—the place where he had enjoyed such a long and rewarding career.

	Comprehension: Sequence and Fluency
Ν	ame
A.	Reread the passage and answer the questions.
1.	What sequence of events might you include in a summary of George Washington Carver's education?
2.	What happened <i>after</i> Carver published his research on peanuts? Tell where in the passage you found the evidence for your answer.
3.	How do the subheads support the chronological sequence of the passage?

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression and phrasing. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	_	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		_		=	
Second Read		1		=	

## The Bear Facts

Frank Craighead and his twin brother John grew up near Washington, D.C. They learned a great deal about nature from their father. The brothers later used this experience to create survival courses for the military. After World War II, Frank and his brother studied grizzly bears in Yellowstone Park. Frank developed radio collars to track bears as they roamed from place to place. His observations made him an expert on bear behavior.



Frank Craighead studied grizzly bears. He helped protect their habitat.

Answer the questions about the text.

- 1. How can you tell that this text is a biography?
- 2. What evidence from the text suggests that Frank Craighead thought of new ways to study wildlife?
- 3. How are the events from Frank Craighead's life presented in the text?
- 4. What additional information does the photo caption provide about Frank Craighead?

Name					
Underline the word in each sentence that contains a Greek or Latin suffix.  Then write your own sentence using the word correctly.					
1.	George Washington Carver went on to become a chemist.				
2.	Carver showed skill as an artist, but he wanted a career in agriculture.				
3.	Carver's teams studied methods of soil management.				
4.	Carver freed the South from its dependence on cotton.				
5.	In 1914 Carver published information about his research.				

**10.** *now* We are **(hope)** \_\_\_\_\_\_ to see many natural wonders.

Write a topic sentence:
Cite evidence from the text:
End with a concluding statement:

Name \_\_

Name			
Mama			

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about what details you can add to support the main idea.

# **Draft Model**

Cacti need special care. They aren't like other plants. I looked it up, and I found out how to care for them.

- **1.** What facts, examples, and concrete details would help readers understand what kind of care cacti need?
- 2. What details would help explain how cacti are not like other plants?
- **3.** What other details would help develop the main idea and make it more interesting?

Now revise the draft by adding details to help support the main idea.								