

Close Reading Ideas

First, Second, Third Reading ideas are provided.

Use the blank template to create your own.

Students can write their text codes in the margins and draw a line to show the area which they are referring to.

Small Group Implementation Ideas:

1st Read = Read straight through. This is a must!

Then, go back to have students number paragraphs. Have students underline main ideas and key details. Teacher: Ask questions which promote an awareness of the historical figure and time period. Essential questions will include motivations and hard ships.

2nd Read = Read slowly to find, circle, and discuss relevant vocabulary.

3rd Read = Read straight through.
Complete writing piece. Box opinions or irrelevant information.

Look for cause and effect, sequence, or historical situations/events.

Name _____



George Washington Carver

1. George Washington Carver was a scientist, teacher, inventor, and botanist. The exact date of his birth is not known. But, many think he was born in January or February of 1864. It is said that his birthdate is unknown because he was born into slavery. He was a sickly child, so he did not have to work on the farm very much. This gave him time to enjoy nature.

2. Some people said that George had a garden where he would nurse weak plants to health. As a child, he was known as "The Plant Doctor."

George made education a priority and went to college. At the time, he was one of the only African Americans in college. After he graduated, he traveled to many different farms. Many of the people he would meet were African American farmers. He helped farmers learn how to take care of their soil and grow crops. He taught them how to use peanuts as a fertilizer.

3. Later, George saw that farmers grew too many peanuts. Farmers would throw out excess peanuts. This inspired him to find a way to use them because he did not want to see anything go to waste. He wrote about ways to use peanuts. He found out that there are over 300 ways to use them. George helped to create peanut butter. He became very famous and people called him "The Peanut Man." He found ways to use peanuts as bleach, oil, shampoo, soap, and a unique kind of plastic. George never stopped his work with nature. He died in 1943. He left all his life savings to programs that deal with plant research.