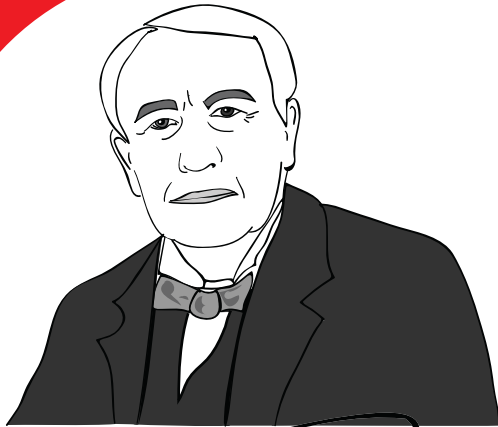


American Heroes

Reading Comprehension

2nd
GRADE



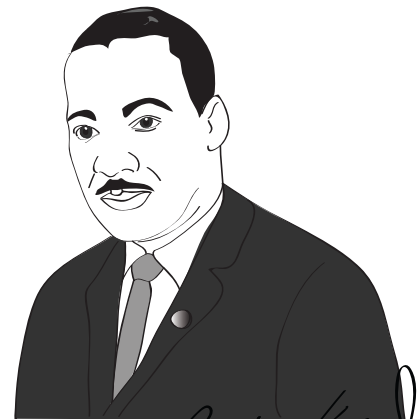
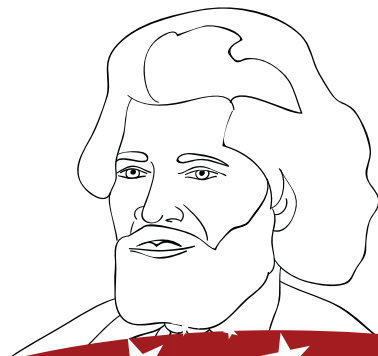
Thomas A. Edison



Rosa Parks



Abraham Lincoln



Martin Luther King Jr.

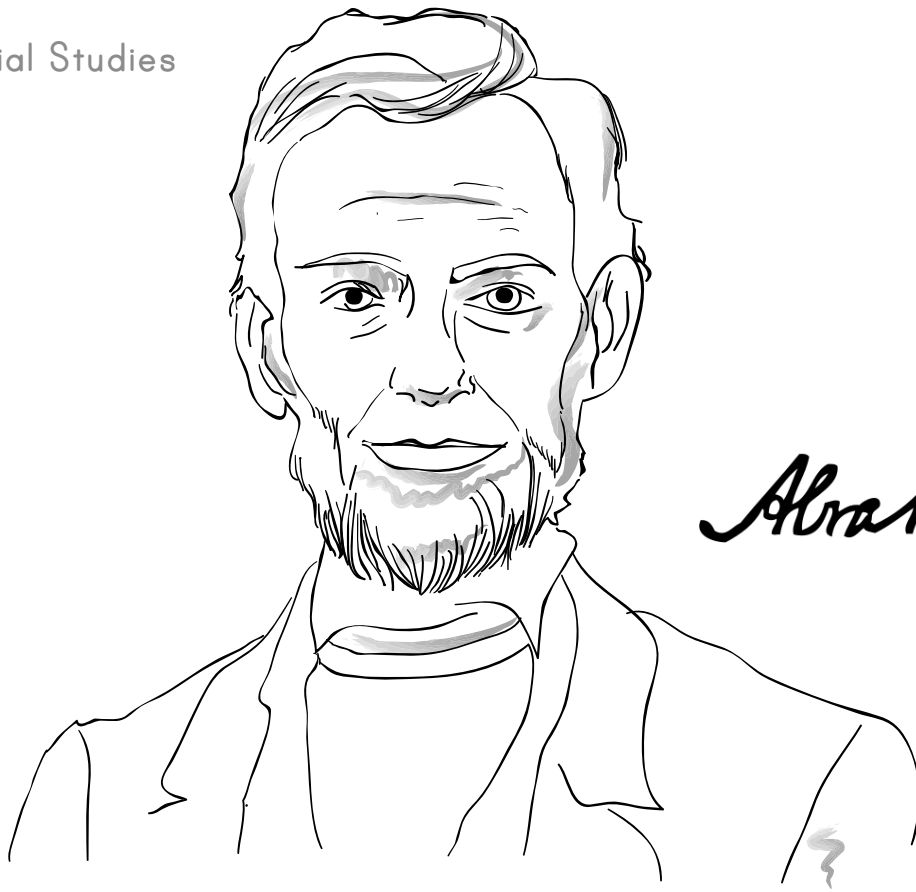
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Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States. He became President in 1861. He was President during the Civil War and helped keep the Union from splitting into two countries. In 1863, he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the document that set all American slaves free.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Lincoln was born in the state of _____. UNEKTCYK
2. Lincoln once worked as a _____. EALYRW
3. Lincoln's wife's name was _____. AMYR

Answers:

1. KENTUCKY

2. LAWYER

3. MARY

John Adams.



John Adams

John Adams was the second President of the United States. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress, which governed the colonies before they became the United States of America. Adams helped the United States become independent from Britain.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Adams was also the first _____ President. IVEC
2. Adams' son, John _____ Adams, was the 6th _____ President of the United States. YUQICN
3. Adams was the only one of the first five Presidents _____ who did not own _____. ELSAVS

Answers:

1. VICE

2. QUINCY

3. SLAVES




Alexander Hamilton

Alexander Hamilton, one of America's Founding Fathers, had a key role in writing the Constitution of the United States. His ideas about government shaped the Constitution, as well as the government we have today. All of the States had to accept the Constitution before it became official, and Hamilton was mostly responsible for convincing his home state of New York to sign on. He was also the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- Hamilton fought on the side of the American colonies in the _____ War. IONVOLUTARYRE
- He fought under General George _____, who was so impressed that he gave Hamilton a job as his aide. HINWAGTSON
- Hamilton wanted to create a strong _____, or national, government for the United States. ALEFRDE

3. FEDERAL

2. WASHINGTON

1. REVOLUTIONARY

Answers:



Eleanor Roosevelt

Eleanor Roosevelt was born in 1884. She was a writer and a humanitarian, a person who works to help the poor and disadvantaged. She spoke out for human rights, equality for all, and children's causes. To help women gain equal rights in a time when they had few, President John F. Kennedy made her the leader of a special group called the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Eleanor was also the wife of President _____
D. Roosevelt. LIRANFNK
2. Her humanitarian work changed the way America thought about what a _____ Lady could be. STIRF
3. Roosevelt spoke for the U.S. as a member of the _____
Nations, a group of countries from around the world who work
for peace and security for all nations. EDNIUT

3. UNITED

2. FIRST

1. FRANKLIN

Answers:

Susan B. Anthony



Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was born in Massachusetts in 1820. A civil rights leader, she is best known for helping women win the right to vote in the United States. In 1872, Anthony was one of the first women ever to vote in a Presidential election in the United States. Though she did not live to see it pass, the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote on August 18, 1920. She believed in equal rights for all people living in the United States, and she spoke out and worked against slavery.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- The right of women to vote in elections is called women's _____ . FUAGFRSE
- Anthony helped pass the 13th Amendment, which _____ , or freed, all of the slaves. ATEANEMPCID
- In the last public speech of her life, Anthony inspired those working for women's rights by saying, "Failure is _____ ." OSIMPBLESI

3. IMPOSSIBLE

2. EMANCIPATED

1. SUFFRAGE

Answers:

Lorraine Hansberry

Playwright
and author



Lorraine Hansberry was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1930. When she was still a small child, Hansberry's family moved to a restricted neighborhood for white residents, which was against the law at the time. Hansberry's father took the family's case all the way to the Supreme Court, and her mother stayed to guard the home, ready to defend her children if necessary. The family won their case, but the experience affected Hansberry deeply. Her best-known work, a dramatic play called A Raisin in the Sun, was inspired by these events. It was the first play written by an African-American to be produced on Broadway. At the age of 29, Hansberry became the youngest American playwright to receive the prestigious New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play. Hansberry's promising career was cut short by her death from pancreatic cancer at the age of 34.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. A Raisin in the Sun was also the first play on Broadway with an African-American _____, Lloyd Richards. TORREDIC
2. The 1961 film version of A Raisin in the Sun starred legendary African-American actor Sydney _____. OIIETR
3. A 2004 Broadway revival of A Raisin in the Sun, starring Sean "_____ " Combs, received a Tony Award nomination for Best Revival of a Play. YIDDD

3. DIDDY

2. POTTER

1. DIRECTOR

Answers:

Maya Angelou

Writer,
producer,
performer,
professor



Maya Angelou was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1928. As a young woman, she joined Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders to establish Civil Rights organizations and work for equality for African-Americans. She was devastated when King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, which also happened to be her birthday. To begin dealing with her grief, she wrote the first of six autobiographical volumes, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. The book won international acclaim, and she went on to become a successful writer, producer, actor and teacher. In 2010, President Barack Obama announced that Angelou would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Angelou is a highly trained dancer who studied and performed with famed African-American choreographer Alvin _____. EYILA
2. One of her books of poetry, Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diiiie, was nominated for a _____ Prize. ZEULIRPT
3. Angelou recited her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," at the _____ ceremony for President Bill Clinton. TIOAUNINRAGU

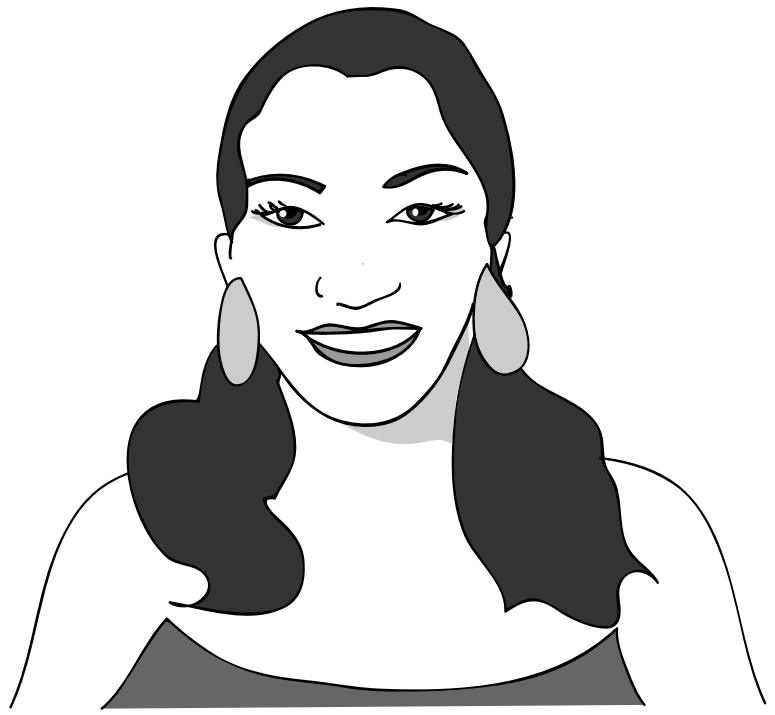
Answers:

1. AILEY

2. PULITZER

3. INAUGURATION

Celia Cruz



Celia Cruz

Celia Cruz was born in Cuba, and became a citizen of the United States in 1959. She was a well-known singer of salsa songs, and introduced Cuban music to the people of the United States. She won seven Grammy Awards, the most important awards in American music. She received the National Medal of the Arts award in 1994.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Cruz recorded albums with some of the most famous musicians in _____ music. NLIAT
2. "Salsa" is not only the name for a kind of music, but also for a kind of _____. ACEDN
3. Cuba is an island nation in a part of the ocean called the _____ Sea. EANACBRIB

3. CARIBBEAN

2. DANCE

1. LATIN

Answers:

Rosa Parks



Rosa Parks

In 1955, one woman's refusal to give up her seat on a bus helped end segregation on public buses. That woman was Rosa Parks, and when she disobeyed a bus driver who ordered her to give her seat to a white passenger, she was arrested and taken to jail. Though other African-Americans had bravely refused to give up their seats on buses in the past, it was the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led in part by Rosa Parks, that helped end segregation on public transportation.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Until the boycott, African-Americans in Alabama had to sit at the _____ of the bus. AKBC
2. Rosa Parks became one of the most important leaders of the _____ Rights movement. LIIVC
3. African-Americans were also banned from eating at some _____, and from many other places. TAREURANTSS

Frederick Douglass



Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was a leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery within the United States in the time leading up to the Civil War. Douglass was born a slave, but he escaped to the North, where slavery did not exist. He helped create an anti-slavery newspaper called The North Star.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Douglass sometimes gave President _____ advice. LILNONC
2. He wanted to give African-Americans the right to _____. TVEO
3. Douglass was ambassador to the nation of _____. IAHIT

Answers:

1. LINCOLN

2. VOTE

3. HAITI

Booker T. Washington



Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery on April 5, 1856. After the emancipation of the slaves, Washington was forced to get a job at age 9 to help support his poor family. In 1881, Washington became the Principal of Tuskegee Institute, a college for African-Americans in Tuskegee, Alabama. The school is still around today and is now called Tuskegee University. Washington wanted a good education for all African-Americans, and he worked his whole life to achieve this goal.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

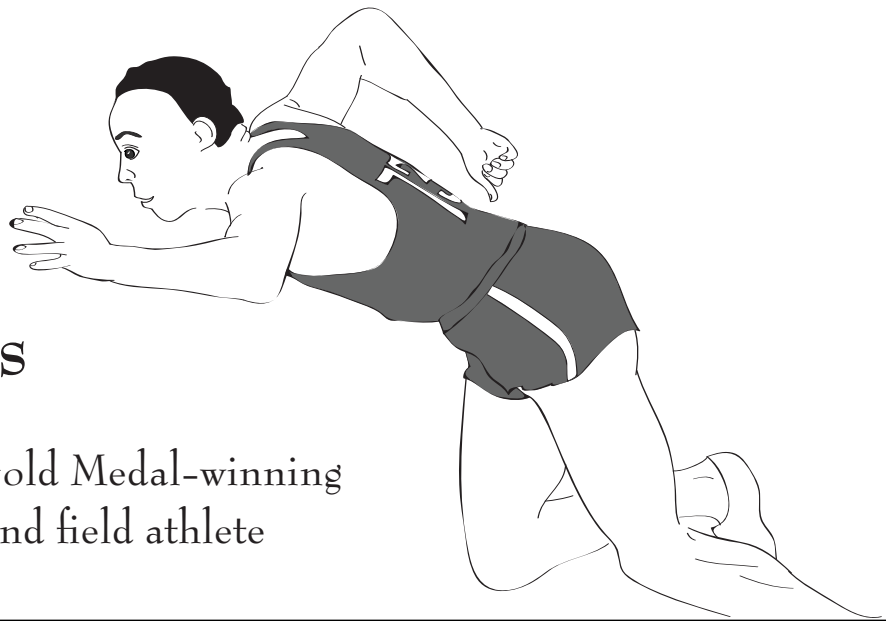
1. Booker T. Washington wrote a famous book about his life growing up, called "Up From _____". LAVSRYE
2. Though she herself could not read or write, Washington's _____ bought him textbooks so he could learn. ERMTHO
3. As a slave, Washington worked on a _____, the type of farm on which most slaves were forced to work. NLANPIOTAT

3. PLANTATION

2. MOTHER

1. SCHOOL

Answers:



Jesse Owens

Olympic Gold Medal-winning
track and field athlete

James Cleveland Owens was born in Oakville, Alabama in 1913. He was nine years old when his family moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he received the nickname Jesse. When his new teacher asked his name, he replied that it was "J.C.," as he was called at the time. Because of his Southern accent, the teacher misheard the name as "Jesse," and the nickname stuck.

As a boy, Owens took what odd jobs he could find, working while training on the track and field team in junior high school. Owens' coach allowed him to practice before school so he could keep his after-school job at a shoe repair shop. After high school, he went on to compete for Ohio State University's track team. He set three world records and tied a fourth. Still, he was forced to live off campus with other African-American athletes, and when the team traveled, he stayed in "black-only" hotels. Despite those circumstances, he persisted in his training and competition and went on to win four gold medals in the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

- The 1936 Summer Olympics took place in the German capital city of _____, NERBIL
- Adi Dassler, the founder of athletic shoe company Adidas, persuaded Owens to wear Adidas shoes in the Olympic Games. This was the first known _____ of an African-American athlete. HIPSPOORSNS
- Owens' family moved from their home in Ohio during the Great _____, when many African-Americans moved away from the South. IOIGRANMT

3. MIGRATION

2. SPONSORSHIP

1. BERLIN

Answers:

W.E.B. Du Bois

Activist, journalist, sociologist



William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in 1868. Du Bois' father left the family before his second birthday, and his mother suffered a stroke when Du Bois was still a young child. He was forced to work to support himself and his mother, who could no longer work following her stroke. Despite this hardship, Du Bois remained focused on his studies, believing that his education could better their lives. He earned a degree from Fisk University, a historically African-American college in Nashville, Tennessee, then received a scholarship to Harvard. In 1895, he became the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

He taught at the university level for several years, then went to work at Atlanta University, now called Clark Atlanta University, in Atlanta, Georgia. He created the university's department of social work, which exists today as the Whitney M. Young, Jr. School of Social Work. He became founder and editor of the NAACP's journal, The Crisis, which published African-American writers, including some who wrote during the Harlem Renaissance. He argued against Booker T. Washington's belief that African-Americans should accept segregation and the idea that they could be "separate but equal."

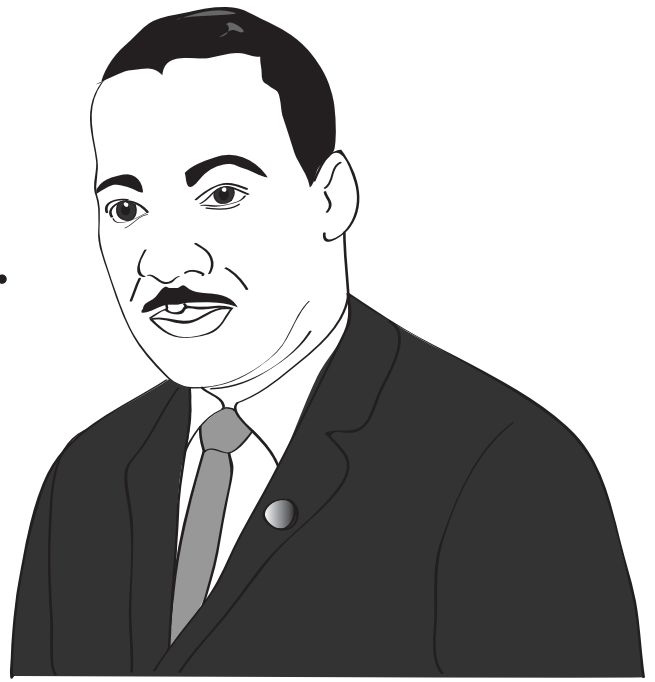
Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Du Bois worked to disprove the theory that African-Americans were biologically inferior to white Americans, called _____ racism. ICCIENSFTI
2. Du Bois was one of the founders of the NAACP, the National Association for the _____ of Colored People. NTDVAEAEMNC
3. In 1950, Du Bois ran for U.S. _____ from New York as a member of the American Labor Party. EOSRNAT

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Civil Rights leader



Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1929. The son of a Baptist minister, he became one himself after studying at a theological seminary in Pennsylvania. There, he learned about the non-violent methods used by Mohandas Gandhi in protest of British colonization in India. King believed that African-Americans could gain their civil rights through peaceful demonstration and protest. He believed in methods such as the boycott, refusing to buy products or services from companies or people who discriminated against African-Americans.

In 1963, a civil rights march on Washington, D.C., called the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, helped make King internationally known. It was on the occasion of this march that King made his famous 'I Have A Dream' speech. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. That same year, the Civil Rights Act was passed, banning many types of discrimination against African-Americans.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. His life as an activist began with the _____ Bus Boycott, started by Rosa Parks in the city it is named for. NTRMOYGEOM
2. Martin Luther King, Jr. was _____ on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. DANAITASSSES
3. In 1983, a _____ holiday was declared in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. We still observe that holiday every January. RALFEDE

Answers:

1. MONTGOMERY

2. ASSASSINATED

3. FEDERAL

George Washington Carver

Scientist, botanist and inventor



George Washington Carver was born into slavery some time between 1861 and 1864. No record exists to confirm the date of his birth. After the abolition of slavery, Carver's former masters, Moses and Susan Carver, raised George and his brother James as their own sons, teaching them reading and writing and encouraging George's intellectual pursuits. George took his new parents' last name.

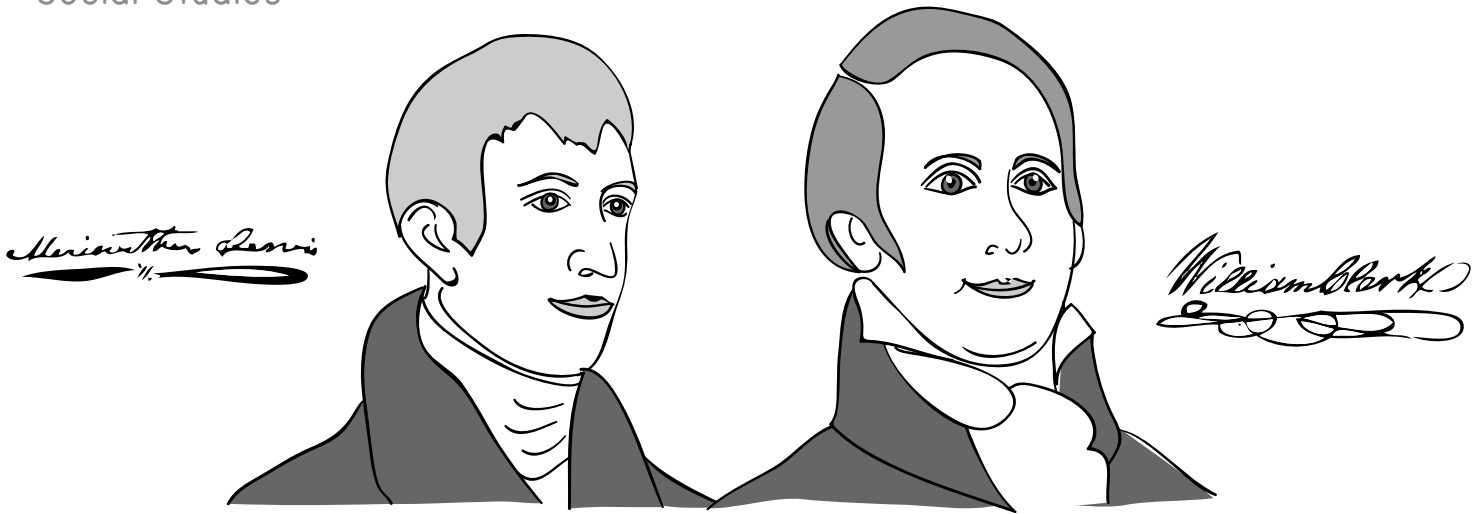
A teacher at Simpson College in Iowa, where Carver was enrolled, noticed his talent for drawing flowers and encouraged him to study botany. Carver then went to study at Iowa State Agricultural College, where, to distinguish himself from another student named George Carver, he added Washington to his name. After a master's degree at Agricultural College, Booker T. Washington invited Carver to lead the agricultural department at the famed Tuskegee Institute. He remained there for 47 years, teaching former slaves farming techniques so they could support themselves.

Carver taught his students and agricultural professionals that crop rotation, the practice of planting different crops in the same fields year to year, could help soil retain its nutrients. He created many non-food products, everything from shaving cream to shoe polish to shampoo, from plants such as peanuts, sweet potatoes and pecans.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Though he is often falsely credited with having invented _____, Carver did create more than 300 products using peanuts. UTAPEN RUTBET
2. Carver's birthplace was declared a national _____, the first ever dedicated to an African-American. NTMEONUM
3. Many leaders consulted with Carver over agricultural matters, from Presidents of the United States to the Crown Prince of the country of _____. ESENWD



Lewis and Clark

On May 14, 1804, Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and a team of 31 others set out on an expedition from St. Louis, Missouri. Their goal was to explore the lands and rivers of the western United States. At that time, the United States had no maps of that land or its rivers. President Thomas Jefferson hoped to find a Northwest Passage, a route of rivers that ships could use to cross from east to west. The team finally reached the Pacific Ocean in November of 1805, completing their expedition.

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Another goal of the expedition was to make friends and set up trade with _____ American tribes . TNAEIV
2. _____ , a Native American woman who knew the territory, helped guide the expedition. AWAGEASAC
3. Along the way, Lewis and Clark saw many kinds of plants and _____ they had never seen before. ALSMANI

3. ANIMALS

2. SACAGAWEA

1. NATIVE

Answers:






Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin was a man of many talents. A scientist, author, printer and inventor, he wrote a famous book called Poor Richard's Almanac, which is still being published today. An almanac is a book of important facts, such as weather reports, recipes and advice, printed yearly. He was the inventor of many things we still use today, like the lightning rod, bifocal glasses, a heater called the Franklin stove, and even swim fins!

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

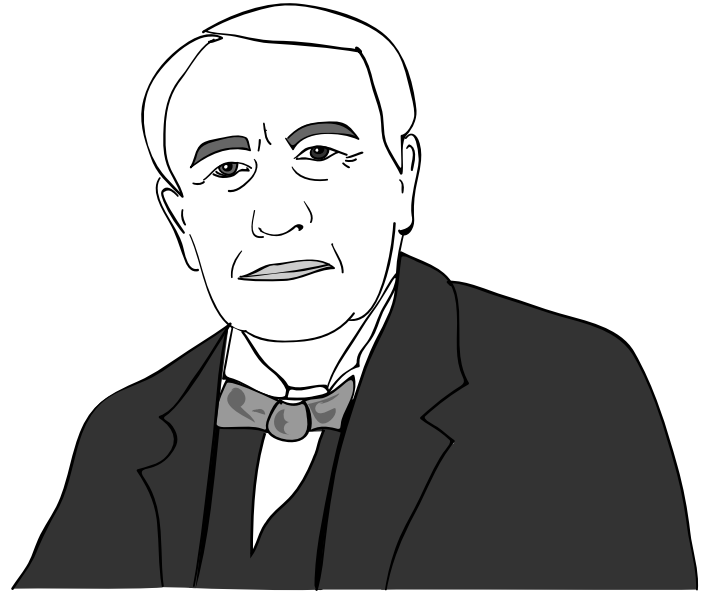
- Using a metal key tied to a kite, Franklin proved that lightning conducts _____. ITYLECECTRI
- Franklin is responsible for the famous saying, "A penny saved is a penny _____. NEDEAR
- Franklin believed all people should be free, and spoke out against the practice of _____. YLASRVE

3. SLAVERY

2. EARNED

1. ELECTRICITY

Answers:



Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison was a scientist and inventor born in 1847. He is best known for his work with electric power. He invented a way to send power into homes and factories, and built a power station that created the electricity he sold. Edison helped design a type of light bulb similar to the one we use today, and he made many other discoveries in the field of electricity. He even invented a battery that could be used to power an electric car!

Word scramble!

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. Edison created one of the first electric _____, or power companies. TIIESULIT
2. He had over 1,000 _____, which give rights and credit for inventions to their creator. PNTSATE
3. Edison also invented new ways of filming a _____, also known as a movie. TIOMNO UPREICT

3. MOTION PICTURE

2. PATENTS

1. UTILITIES

Answers:



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