

Grade 4 Exemplars

Task: Describe how George Washington Carver overcame challenges and made a difference toward improving the lives of others. Cite evidence from the text.

Exemplar A:

George Washington Carver faced challenges and made a difference toward improving the lives of others. An early challenge George encountered was being born a slave, then his mom being captured and stolen. While still young, he attended college but had to work on a farm all along. Despite these obstacles, his resolve did not change. When he was older, this dedicated worker then tried to help others by teaching newly free African-American farmers how to rotate crops and use the extra peanuts they grew in over 300 ways. He finally donated his income to Tuskegee University, a historically Black university. George used his skills and resources to help African-Americans all through his life. George Washington Carver is an example of someone who faced racism, but was still able to help newly freed African-American farmers, and all farmers. We should work to change unfair discrimination that people still face today so that everyone can succeed and contribute more easily.

Exemplar B:

George Washington Carver was a famous scientist who grew up in the USA in the 1800s. He overcame severe challenges, then worked to improve the lives of others in smart ways.

During his early years, George's first challenge was that when he was a baby, his mother was kidnapped. He then went to school, but had to do "full-time farm work" all through. He also had difficulty getting admitted to college because he was African-American, but found he could be accepted if he studied art, then he switched to science. This shows that after horrific and unfair experiences, he worked hard and found clever solutions to problems.

George then helped farmers who "relied on cotton to support themselves.", but had challenges with growing crops. Planting only cotton depleted the soil of nutrients. His suggestion was to recommend they alternate planting peanuts too, which adds rich nutrients back into the soil. He could think creatively and knew enough about soil to help them.

However, farmers now had the problem of too many peanuts. This inventor taught farmers to use the extra peanuts to make "peanut milk, paper, and soap." Now these farmers could sell the extra peanuts and have enough income to live. George kept coming up on his own with good ideas that worked as solutions.

George shows that when we work hard and persist, we can make important contributions. He spent his life making others' lives better, even though he experienced such unfair treatment and so many barriers. We must work to change unfair systems that still exist today. People in George's shoes could contribute even more, and everyone would benefit.

Task: Describe how George Washington Carver overcame challenges and made a difference toward improving the lives of others. Cite evidence from the text to support your response.

Exemplar C:

'Peanut Man' Carver Restores Soil... and Hope," and "George Washington Carver" tell the life story of George Washington Carver, an African American man who lived in Alabama in the 1800s and went on to accomplish greatness for himself and his community. During his life, he solved challenges by working hard and having good ideas that helped to improve the lives of others.

When he was young, George's first challenge was that just after he was born, his mother was kidnapped. He did not have parents to raise him so the Carver family took care of him. He went to school, but had to do "full-time farm work" all through. He also had difficulty getting into college because of his race, but found he could be admitted to study art, then switched to science. This shows that he worked hard and found clever solutions to problems.

Next, George began helping farmers with their soil challenges. He discovered that if farmers plant cotton every year, this "leaves the soil depleted of nutrients". If soil has no nutrients, cotton will not grow. This farming expert wanted to help farmers who "relied on cotton to support themselves". He used his good knowledge of science to advise them to rotate the crops they planted.

After farmers began planting peanuts, as he taught them, this put rich nutrients back into the soil. Yet, this solution caused too many peanuts so George then came up "with over 300 uses for the peanut, including peanut milk, paper and soap". Again, George kept thinking up great ways to help the farmers whenever new problems 'cropped' up.

Although he faced racism and so many challenges, he was still able to do so much for the African-American community that benefitted everyone. Unfair discrimination still exists today, and still prevents people from accomplishing all they can. We must dismantle the barriers that prevent people from making the best contribution they can to the world.

Below Standard

George Washington Carver had a lot of challenges. He wanted to plant things. He was able to plant peanuts so that the cotton could grow in the soil much more often. He worked hard to go to college. He had to work on a farm all day. George enjoyed plants. George “wrote down more than 300 different uses for peanuts.” He followed his dreams and made them come true. He helped many farmers.