



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about Booker T. Washington? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you have learned.





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Take a Stand

Washington thought black people should learn a trade, such as farming. He thought this would help black people improve their communities and gain equal rights. Other civil rights leaders, such as W. E. B. Du Bois, thought black people should protest to achieve social change. Which argument do you agree with most? Why?





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Why Do I Care?

Maybe you have never been denied an education. But that doesn't mean you can't think about the importance of a good education. How does lack of education affect other people in the world? How might your life be different if you did not have access to a good education?





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Another View

This book talks about Washington's legacy. As you know, every source is different. Ask an adult to help you find another source about this topic. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's author. What is the point of view of each author? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Tell the Tale

Chapter Five of this book discusses Washington's Atlanta Compromise speech. Imagine you were in the audience when Washington gave this speech. Write 200 words about your experience. What do you see and hear?





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Discussion Questions

- How did Washington's enslavement influence his desire for an education? Why do you think education was so important to freed slaves?
- Washington made an effort to be friends with both black and white leaders. Do you think this was a good strategy? Why or why not?
- What is Washington's legacy? How is his legacy visible today?





- Washington thought African Americans should focus on learning a trade. He did not think that protesting would help African Americans gain equal rights. Some black activists, such as W. E. B. Du Bois, disagreed. They thought protest was important in the fight for civil rights. In what ways do you think both approaches helped African American communities? Do you think these activists could have learned to work together?
- How do you think Washington's story could be taught in schools and communities today?

