

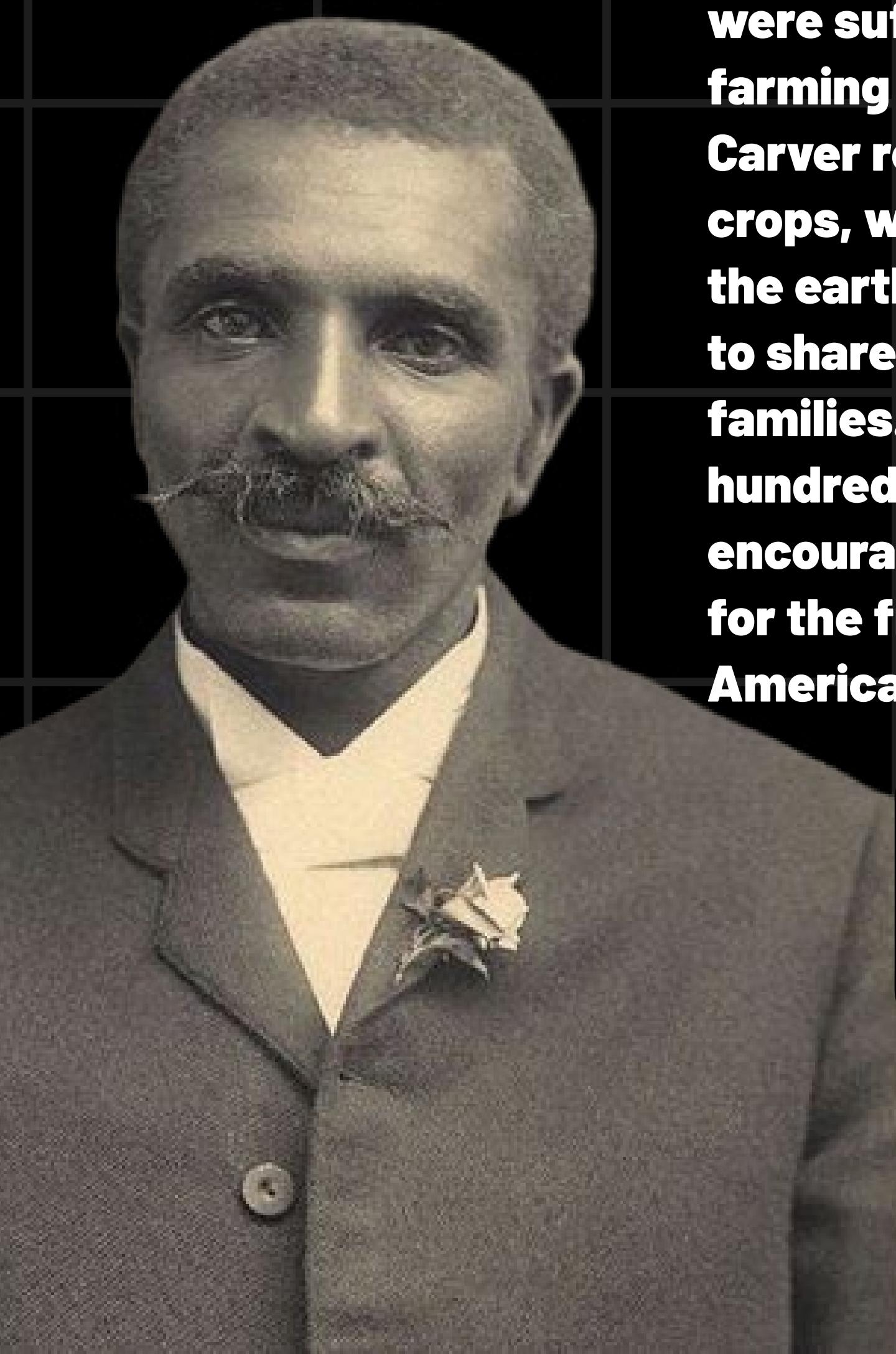
ACTIVIST

George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver was a pioneering agricultural scientist. His research into soil conditions and the cultivation of plant-based produce transformed the lives of poor farmers.

Carver was born into slavery in Missouri. In the fields surrounding his childhood home, Carver discovered a lifelong love of plants and enrolled at Iowa State College to study agriculture. After receiving a Masters degree, he became the first Black faculty member at Iowa State, before leaving for Alabama to run the Agricultural Department at the Tuskegee Institute.

As crop yields in the American South were suffering after decades of cotton farming robbed the soil of nutrients, Carver researched revolutionary new crops, which could be rotated to enrich the earth. He created a mobile classroom to share his findings with poor farming families. He also invented several hundred plant-based products and encouraged farmers to cultivate peanuts for the first time, which became an American staple in the 1940s.



[Click here to find out more](#)