

Booker T. Washington | Lesson Plan

How did Booker T. Washington help his fellow black Americans advance in society after the Civil War?

Students will understand Booker T. Washington's role in founding the Tuskegee Institute. Through his example, they will recognize the importance of hard work, self-reliance, and practical skills in accomplishing life goals.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the life of Booker T. Washington, a former slave and Tuskegee Institute founder.
- Examine how Booker T. Washington used his freedom to help his fellow black Americans advance in society after the Civil War.
- Explain the value of hard work, self-reliance, and practical skills.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Independence:** The ability to make decisions and take actions on your own without needing help or relying on others.
- **Dignity:** The state of being worthy of respect and honor, often related to how a person carries themselves and is treated by others.
- **Confidence:** A feeling of self-assurance arising from one's belief in their own abilities, qualities, and judgment.
- **Oppression:** The unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power, often resulting in the unfair treatment and control of individuals or groups.
- **Self-reliance:** The ability to depend on yourself to meet your needs, solve problems, and achieve goals without relying on others.

Educational Standards: CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.W.2

Academic Subject Areas: History, Biography, Racism

What You'll Need

- Video: *Booker T. Washington: From Slavery to Self-Sufficiency* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Booker T. Washington: From Slavery to Self-Sufficiency* (Click [Here](#))
- Pictures of Booker T. Washington
- Index cards, about 10 per student
- One sticky note per student

Lesson Plan (45 minutes)



Warm-Up: (20 minutes)

1. Begin by discussing the concept of self-reliance, emphasizing its importance and relevance in achieving success.
2. Ask for examples of ways your students successfully perform various independent activities (e.g., making their beds, cleaning their rooms, washing dishes, completing homework).
3. Introduce Booker T. Washington as an example of someone who embodied the principles of self-reliance and hard work. Show students pictures of him.
4. Next, explain that students will be challenged to perform a task independently without help from you or other students. The challenge will be to make a tower using only ten index cards. The cards may be folded, but students may not use additional materials.
5. Before handing out the index cards, explain to students that, like Booker T. Washington, they will be challenged to build something meaningful using limited resources (in this case, the index cards). Emphasize the importance of creativity, perseverance, and self-reliance in overcoming obstacles.
6. After several minutes, go around the room to see who successfully built a tower. Collect the cards or instruct students to keep them/put them away.
7. Reveal that the class will watch a video about Booker T. Washington, a man who accomplished great things through hard work and self-reliance.
8. Distribute the worksheets and encourage students to complete them as they watch the video.

Watch and Complete: (15 minutes)

1. Watch the video.
2. Pause the video often so that students have time to list the events on the worksheet chart (# 1-7) in the correct order.

Wrap-Up: (15 minutes)

1. Allow students several minutes to complete the worksheet independently.
2. Collect as a formative assessment or use the worksheet to foster more discussion.
3. Begin to bring the lesson to a close by asking the students to reflect on what they've learned from Booker T. Washington's story.
4. Ask them what independence means to them now after hearing about Booker T. Washington's life and his dedication to helping others become independent. Encourage them to share specific examples of how they might start applying independence in their own lives, whether at home, at school, or in their personal activities.
5. Provide each student with a sticky note and ask them to write down one specific task or area in their life where they want to become more independent. For example, they might choose to make their own snacks, complete homework without reminders, learn a new skill, or attempt to become more organized.

6. Encourage them to think about how practicing independence in these small ways will help them as they grow older, just like how Booker T. Washington's early experiences prepared him for his future success. Suggest they put the sticky note somewhere visible as a reminder.
7. Conclude by reminding students that independence isn't just about doing things alone; it's about gaining the freedom to make choices and take control of their own lives.
8. Highlight how Booker T. Washington's life showed that with hard work, self-reliance, and practical skills, they too can achieve great things.
9. Encourage them to keep Booker T. Washington's story in mind whenever they face a challenge, knowing that their efforts to become more independent now will pave the way for their future success.

Extension Activity: Classroom Independence Challenge

Announce a classroom-wide "Independence Challenge" where, over the next week, students will try to accomplish their goals of becoming more independent. You can set up a simple chart in the classroom where students can mark off their progress or share their successes with the class. Emphasize that, like Booker T. Washington, developing these skills now will give them the confidence and ability to handle more significant challenges in the future. Celebrate each student's effort, no matter how small, reinforcing that every step towards independence is a step towards success.

Don't have time for the full lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 minutes)

Distribute the worksheet and allow students to complete it while they follow along with the video.