

What were some barriers to education faced by African Americans before and after the Civil War?

What circumstances did Washington overcome to achieve his dreams?

- Subject:** History and Social Sciences, Language Arts
- Grade Level:** Fourth Grade
- Topic:** Booker T. Washington, Virginia anti-literacy laws
- Guiding Questions:** What were some barriers to education faced by African Americans before and after the Civil War?
What circumstances did Washington overcome to achieve his dreams?
- VA SOL:** VS.7 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the issues that divided our nation and led to the Civil War by
- A. explaining the major events and the differences between northern and southern states that divided Virginians and led to secession, war, and the creation of West Virginia;
- VS.8 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the reconstruction of Virginia following the Civil War by
- A. identifying the effects of Reconstruction on life in Virginia;
 - B. identifying the effects of segregation and “Jim Crow” on life in Virginia for American Indians, whites, and African Americans;
- Materials:** [Fifty Cents and a Dream Young: Booker T. Washington](#) picture book by Jabari Asim, primary source document photograph of Booker T. Washington (Appendix A) cut into puzzle pieces, Educational Laws of Virginia Primary Source (Appendix B), Booker T. Washington quote, cause and effect chart copies (Appendix C) and large version on chart paper if desired, notecards, pencils, copies of photographs, interactive board to display primary source documents, sticky notes

Before you begin:

Copy the Booker T. Washington portraits (Appendix A) for each group. Cut each puzzle into 4 or 5 pieces depending on the size of your groups and put in a bag or envelope. Prepare slides with the portrait, the book photograph, and the quote. Prepare copies of the cause and effect chart.

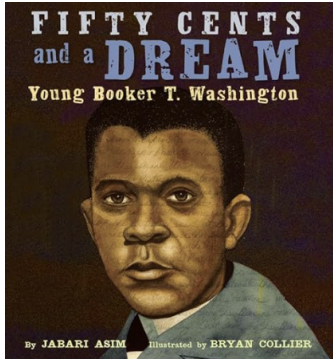
Introduction

Give each group a puzzle piece of the photo of Booker T. Washington (Appendix A). Have students write on a sticky note what is in their section of the puzzle. After one minute, ask students to combine their pieces to complete the whole photo of Booker T. while displaying the completed image on the. Have students share what they notice about the photo. Next, have students work in pairs to brainstorm some barriers that the man in the picture may have to overcome to become educated. Then share out loud what some of his challenges may have been.

Pre-Reading Activity

Display Appendix B and ask students what they think this means. What do they notice? How does this connect to what we know about education laws pre Civil War?

Advise students that it was illegal in Virginia to teach slave how to read and write and beginning in 1831 anti literacy laws were established for free African Americans in response to the Nat Turner Rebellion.



Read the Book

Ask students to pay particular attention to any barriers that Booker faces and how he overcomes each obstacle. Tell students that the author was inspired to write this book because of a puzzle of this photograph that his parents had given him as a child for Christmas.

Cause and Effect Diagram

After reading the book, ask students to work in groups of four to fill in the blanks of the Cause and Effect chart (Appendix C). This will work best if you have a book for each small group of students. As students finish, have each group present their ideas for each cause and effect relationship. Teachers may record these responses on a large chart paper version if desired.

Sequencing Activity

Give students four notecards. Have students work together to decide upon four major events in the text to sequence in order. Each student should illustrate one of the events. Students will share the timelines that they have created with the whole group.

Closing Discussion

Recap the circumstances that Booker had to overcome. REvisit the guiding questions for this lesson in your discussion: What were some barriers to education faced by African Americans before and after the Civil War? What circumstances did Washington overcome to achieve his dreams?

Optional Extension

- Show students this quote “Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.” Ask students to write a paragraph about how this quote from Booker relates to what we know about Booker’s life.

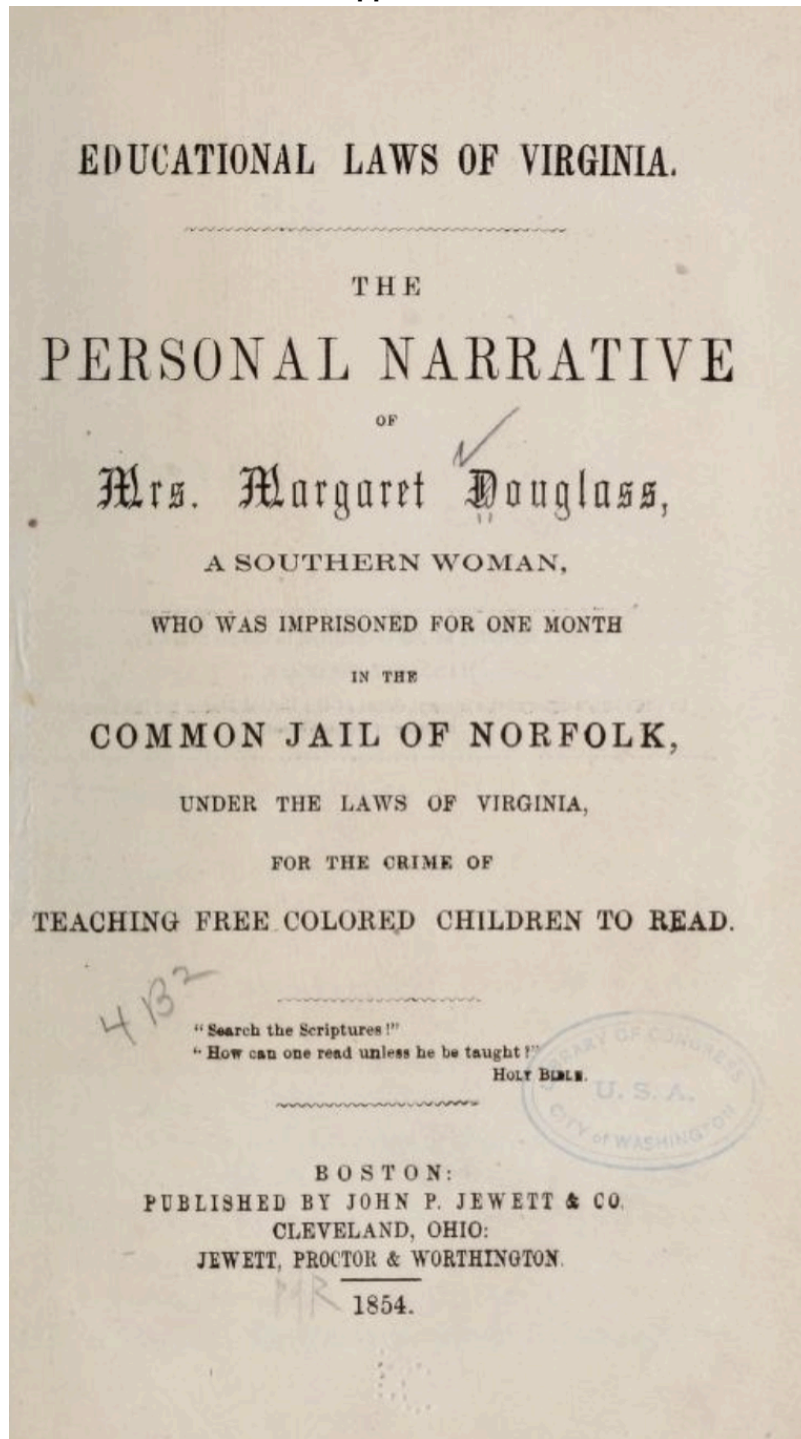
Lesson Created by Tara Parrish, Fourth Grade Teacher

Appendix A



Image retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ds.04383/>

Appendix B



Article retrieved from: <https://www.loc.gov/item/14019470/>

Appendix C
Cause and Effect Chart

	Booker T. Washington could not read or write as a young child
Booker is able to attend a school for African Americans.	
Booker worked and saved money	
Booker attended Hampton Institute	