

Great Minds: African American Inventors

African American inventors have a large place in American history. They have contributed ideas and inventions to areas such as agriculture, mechanics, medicine and electronics.

Thomas Jennings

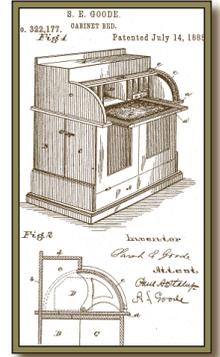
1791-1859

The first African American to receive a patent, Thomas Jennings invented a way to dry clean clothes. He was awarded a patent in 1821. He was a wealthy businessman and used the money from his business and invention for anti-slavery activities.

Sarah E. Goode

about 1855 - 1905

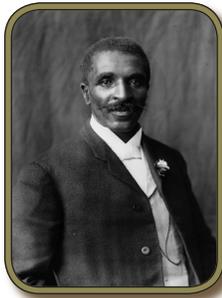
One of the first African American women to receive a patent, Sarah Goode invented a cabinet bed. The bed would fold into a desk when not being used, to save space.



George Washington Carver

1864-1943

George Washington Carver discovered uses for farm crops, such as peanuts and sweet potatoes. He also developed new ways to improve the soil for farming.



Frederick McKinley Jones

1893-1961

Frederick Jones invented the refrigeration truck. Over his life he received over 60 patents. He was admitted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Charles R. Drew, M.D.

1904-1950

Dr. Drew improved the ways of donating and storing blood and also developed methods for safe collection in blood banks during World War II.



Otis Boykin

1920-1982

Otis Boykin invented over 25 electronic devices for computers, radios and guided missiles. He is best known for inventing a control unit for an artificial heart.

Who Was It?

Who was the first African American inventor to get a patent?

Who improved blood storage and donation methods?

Who discovered uses for peanuts and sweet potatoes?

Find the Secret Word

Fill in the blanks to make complete words. Then use the code sentence to find the secret word.

MA _ Y PE _ PL _ HA _ E B _ IGH _ _ DEAS.
 6 12 3 9 15 8 4

_____ 4 _____ 6 _____ 9 _____ 3 _____ 6 _____ 8 _____ 12 _____ 15