

# Black History

## BENJAMIN BANNEKER



### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. Benjamin Banneker was

born in

1731

in

Maryland

and

was

self-taught

in

mathematics

and

science.

He

also

worked

as

a

farmer.

He

was

also

an

abolitionist

and

used

his

writings

to

advocate

for

the

abolition

of

slavery.

He

was

also

### BENJAMIN BANNEKER



In addition to his work as an almanac author, Banneker was also an accomplished surveyor. He was appointed to the survey team that laid out the plans for the new Federal city of Washington, D.C. in 1791, and he helped to survey the city's boundaries. He also surveyed land for the Federal government, helping to establish the boundaries of the new state of Ohio.

Benjamin Banneker was an African American astronomer, surveyor, almanac author, and farmer. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1731 and was self-taught in mathematics and science. Despite being born into slavery, Banneker became a respected and accomplished scientist and author.

Banneker was also an active abolitionist and used his writings to speak

for the abolition of slavery.

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# READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

Ready to Print

## BENJAMIN BANNEKER



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Benjamin Banneker was an African American astronomer, surveyor, almanac author, and farmer. He was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1731 and was self-taught in mathematics and science. Despite being born into slavery, Banneker became a respected and accomplished scientist and author.

Banneker was also an active abolitionist and used his writings to speak out against slavery. He wrote several letters to prominent political figures, including Thomas Jefferson, urging them to abolish the institution of slavery. Despite the many accomplishments and contributions of Benjamin Banneker, he is still not as well known as many of his contemporaries, but his legacy lives on.

Banneker's most notable achievement was his authorship of a series of almanacs, which he began publishing in 1792. These almanacs included astronomical calculations and weather predictions, as well as practical information such as planting schedules and tide tables. Banneker's almanacs were widely read and respected, and they helped to establish him as a prominent scientific figure of his time.

- What topic did Benjamin Banneker address in his almanacs, making them widely read and respected?
  - Political commentary
  - Astronomical calculations and weather predictions
  - Poetry and literature
  - Economic theories
- How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?
  - Through political activism
  - By organizing protests
  - Writing letters urging to abolish slavery
  - Leading underground railroad operations

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- Where was Benjamin Banneker born?
  - Washington, D.C.
  - Baltimore County, Maryland
  - Richmond, Virginia
  - Charleston, South Carolina
- What field was Benjamin Banneker self-taught in?
  - Law
  - Medicine

## ANSWER QUESTIONS

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

WRITE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. Where was Benjamin Banneker born?

2. What field was Benjamin Banneker self-taught in?

3. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to laying out plans as part of a survey team?

READING  
COMPREHENSION

4. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?

5. What was Benjamin Banneker's most notable achievement?

## ANSWERS

1. Where was Benjamin Banneker born?  
- Answer: b. 1731
2. What was Benjamin Banneker's most notable achievement?  
- Answer: b. Authorship of almanacs
3. In which city did Benjamin Banneker contribute to laying out plans as part of a survey team?  
- Answer: d. Washington, D.C.
4. What topic did Benjamin Banneker address in his almanacs, making them widely read and respected?  
- Answer: b. Astronomical calculations and weather predictions
5. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?  
- Answer: c. Writing letters urging to abolish slavery
6. Where was Benjamin Banneker born?  
- Answer: b. Baltimore County, Maryland
7. What field was Benjamin Banneker self-taught in?  
- Answer: c. Mathematics and science
8. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to laying out plans as part of a survey team?  
- Answer: d. Planning the Federal city of Washington, D.C.
9. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?  
- Answer: c. Writing letters urging to abolish slavery
10. What was Benjamin Banneker's most notable achievement?  
- Answer: b. Multitasking: authorship of almanacs and surveying
11. How did Benjamin Banneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?  
- Answer: c. Historical essays

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

6. Where was Benjamin Baneker born?

a. Washington, D.C.

b. Maryland

c. Virginia

d. North Carolina

Benjamin Baneker self-taught in?

Mathematics

Science

History

Geography

Law

Medicine

Engineering

Agriculture

Business

Education

Art

Music

Sports

Politics

Religion

Philosophy

Psychology

Sociology

Anthropology

Linguistics

Archaeology

Geology

Botany

Zoology

Astronomy

Physics

Chemistry

Environmental Science

Health Sciences

Life Sciences

Physical Sciences

Earth Sciences

Space Sciences

Interdisciplinary Studies

Humanities

Social Sciences

Behavioral Sciences

Biological Sciences

Environmental Studies

Global Studies

Area Studies

Language Studies

Area Studies

Area Studies

Area Studies

Area Studies

Area Studies

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. When was Benjamin Baneker born?
  - a. 1631
  - b. 1731
  - c. 1831
  - d. 1931
2. What was Benjamin Baneker's most notable achievement?
  - a. Agricultural innovations
  - b. Authorship of almanacs
  - c. Military leadership
  - d. Exploration of new territories
3. In which city did Benjamin Baneker contribute to laying out plans as part of a survey team?
  - a. New York City
  - b. Boston
  - c. Philadelphia
  - d. Washington, D.C.

## ANSWERS

1. When was Benjamin Baneker born?  
- Answer: b. 1731
2. What was Benjamin Baneker's most notable achievement?  
- Answer: b. Authorship of almanacs
3. In which city did Benjamin Baneker contribute to laying out plans as part of a survey team?  
- Answer: d. Washington, D.C.
4. What topic did Benjamin Baneker address in his almanacs, making them widely read and respected?  
- Answer: b. Astronomical calculations and weather predictions
5. How did Benjamin Baneker contribute to the abolitionist movement?  
- Answer: c. Writing letters urging to abolish slavery
6. Where was Benjamin Baneker born?  
- Answer: b. Baltimore County, Maryland
7. What field was Benjamin Baneker self-taught in?  
- Answer: c. Mathematics and science
8. What significant project was Benjamin Baneker involved in as a surveyor in 1797?  
- Answer: b. Planning the Federal City of Washington, D.C.
9. Besides his work as an almanac author and surveyor, what additional role did Benjamin Baneker play in advocating for social change?  
- Answer: d. Abolitionist activism against slavery
10. Despite his accomplishments, why is Benjamin Baneker not as well known as some of his contemporaries?  
- Answer: c. Historical erasure

MCQ'S &  
QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY  
INCLUDED

# CLOSE READING GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS INCLUDED

**GROUP ACTIVITY**

TITLE OF TEXT \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT I THINK \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNOTATING MARKS**

- ✓ Circle powerful words or phrases.
- ✓ Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- ✓ Place a question mark next to words or phrases that make you think.
- ✓ Write an exclamation point next to something interesting.

**SUMMARIZE**

Write a summary of the passage. The main idea should be stated in your first sentence. Then use the four details to write four supporting sentences. Close your summary by restating the main idea.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN IDEA**

TITLE OF TEXT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIN IDEA \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAILS #1 \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAILS #2 \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPORTING DETAILS #3 \_\_\_\_\_

**VOCABULARY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER**

TITLE OF TEXT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

UNKNOWN WORD \_\_\_\_\_

UNKNOWN WORD \_\_\_\_\_

UNKNOWN WORD \_\_\_\_\_

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING \_\_\_\_\_

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING \_\_\_\_\_

CLUES FROM TEXT & MEANING \_\_\_\_\_