# Black History Month BENJAMIN BANNEKER



READING COMPREHENSION

# READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

# Ready to Print & KER Editable



# BENJAMIN BANNEKER

Born on November 8, 1731, in Baltimore County, Maryland, Benjamin Banneker was a freeman, not subjected to the shackles of slavery that plagued many African American children of his time. Growing up on the Family Farm, Benjamin tolled alongside his Family, contributing to tasks like cultivating tobacco crops, chopping wood, and managing various chores.

Benjamin's lineage traced back to Molly Welsh, an English servant girl turned landowner. Molly's daughter, Mary, married a freed slave named Robert, adopting the name Banneky. Benjamin, born in 1731 to Mary and Robert, inherited his family's freedom. Unlike many of his peers, he wasn't bound by the chains of slavery.

# EDUCATION

Despite limited schooling opportunities, Benjamin's grandmother imparted basic literacy using the Bible. Brief attendance at a Quaker school fueled his interest in science and mathematics. Borrowing books became his avenue for continual learning. An adept problem-solver and mechanic, Benjamin left school to support his aging father on the family farm.

In the time of Benjamin Banneker, clocks were a luxury and a rare sight in America. People relied on church bells tolling or observed the sun's position to estimate the time of day. Benjamin's journey into clockmaking began with a chance encounter with Joseph Levi, a merchant in possession of a pocket watch. Intrigued, Benjamin meticulously sketched the watch and delved into understanding its inner

workings. Joseph Levi, impressed by Benjamin's grasp of mathematical concepts, allowed him to borrow the watch.

Over several years, fueled by determination and a growing passion for timekeeping, Benjamin crafted a larger, functional wooden clock. This creation, showcasing Benjamin's ingenuity, became a sensation, attracting visitors from various places who marveled at the precision of his handmade timepiece

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### testament to his skill and cr Fire consumed it. The clock abilities and his unique contr measurement of time durin novelty...

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### ASTRONOMY: Benjamin's Fascination with

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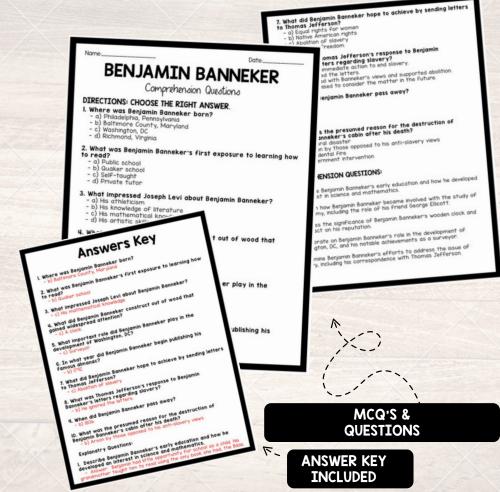
Banneker epitomized a h practical application, led astronomy and surveying

# ALMANAC:

Benjamin Banneker com almanac in 1792, titled " Delaware, Maryland and This influential almanac weather predictions, to tide tables. His yearly ( contributing valuable in

# READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W **VERSIONS INCLUDED** 





**READY TO PRINT** 





\*FONTS ARE EMBEDED FOR CONVENIENCE



