

## Young Booker T. Washington: A Dozen Facts



Booker T. Washington  
1856-1915

1. Booker T. Washington was born into slavery on April 5, 1856 in Virginia.
2. One of his first jobs was walking his master's daughter to school and carrying her books.
3. Because Booker T. Washington was a slave, he was not allowed to attend school or learn how to read and write. However, he would wait outside the schoolhouse and wish to be a student there.
4. The Civil War ended when he was nine years old, and his family was freed. They moved to West Virginia and had to work hard to earn a living.
5. As a young boy, Booker T. Washington worked long hours in a salt mine and then a coal mine.
6. Even while he worked, Booker T. Washington dreamed of getting an education.
7. When he was twelve years old, he learned about a school for African-Americans boys called Hampton Institute that was 500 hundred miles away from his home.
8. Friends and family gave him what little money they could spare to help send him there.
9. When Booker T. Washington ran out of money in Richmond, Virginia, he found a job unloading cargo from ships and made enough money to continue his journey to school.
10. He had only fifty cents left in his pocket when he finally arrived at the Hampton Institute.
11. Booker T. Washington's desire to learn impressed the school's leaders so much that they allowed him to attend classes while working as a janitor at the school.
12. Booker T. Washington is best known as the founder of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, now known as Tuskegee University.