



PEANUTS: A MIRACLE CURE?

Skills

research,
analysis,
reading
comprehension,
synthesis,
criticism,
extrapolation



George Washington Carver touted peanut oil as a miracle cure for many ailments, including polio. This story is told in the chapter "George Washington Carver's Miracle Peanut Cure" in the book, *Edison's Concrete Piano*. Do some research to answer the question: *Was George Washington Carver's claim that peanut oil helps polio true?*



Discussion questions:

1. What health effects did Washington Carver claim for peanut oil?

2. What is resveratrol and what biological effects does it have?

3. George Washington Carver gave peanut oil massages to polio patients.

a) What effect did these massages have? _____

b) Give two possible explanations for these effects.

4. What lessons does this case study have for both the scientific community and society?
