

# 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

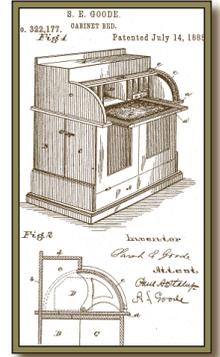
1791-1859

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

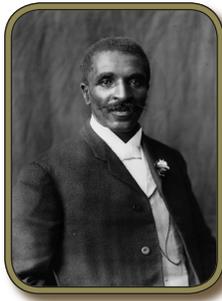
One of the first African American women to receive a patent, Sarah Goode invented a cabinet bed. The bed would fold into a desk when not being used, to save space.



## 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?

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Who improved blood storage and donation methods?

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Who discovered uses for peanuts and sweet potatoes?

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### 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