

Name _____



W.E.B. DuBois

By Sharon Fabian

W.E.B. DuBois was a scholar. He spent much of his life working on advanced college degrees, learning subjects as diverse as sociology and Latin and Greek, but he didn't spend all of his time studying and thinking. W.E.B. DuBois also put his ideas into words. He wrote and lectured so that as many people as possible could understand things the way that he did.

W.E.B. was most interested in learning about his own people - African Americans. He believed that by learning all that he could, he would find ways for African Americans to gain their rights and improve their lives.

He began his studies early in his life. Even in high school, W.E.B. was an excellent student. He was bright and achieved even more than his teachers asked of him. He became the local correspondent for a New York newspaper and wrote articles encouraging Blacks to take political action. He graduated among the top students, those with hopes of going on to colleges like Harvard.

For financial reasons, DuBois began his college career at Fisk University instead. He attended Fisk for three years, earning his degree in 1888. During those three years, in addition to the education his college provided, DuBois also learned more about the discrimination, poverty, and prejudice in the world than he had known growing up. After three years at Fisk, he transferred to Harvard on a scholarship, and graduated with his Bachelors Degree in 1890. He continued his studies, working on his Masters Degree and then on his Doctorate. While there, he chose a combination of fields to study including philosophy, history, and economics.

In the midst of working on his Doctorate, DuBois was chosen by President Hayes for the honor of studying at Berlin University in



Germany. Studying in Europe gave him the chance to widen his horizons further. He saw how the social problems of African Americans were also problems faced by people of African descent on other continents.

After completing the work for his doctorate at Harvard, Dr. DuBois was ready to go to work. He began his career at Wilberforce College in Ohio where he taught Latin and Greek. He stayed there just two years, and then moved on to the University of Pennsylvania where he researched the lives of people in the slums of Philadelphia. Eventually, he moved on to Atlanta University.

Dr. DuBois is known for his work in the field of social sciences. He was one of the first to study scientifically a problem like the lives of slum residents. His work led the way for modern sociological research.

DuBois often spoke and wrote to share his findings with others. He taught that black people were entitled to equal rights. He was one of the organizers and original members of the NAACP. He was the editor-in-chief of the NAACP's *Crisis* magazine for 25 years. He encouraged gifted black youth to go on to college and follow in his footsteps.

As he became more involved in his work, DuBois became convinced that the problems of African Americans should be addressed on a worldwide basis along with similar problems faced by African people on the other continents. He became a leader of the Pan-African movement and continued as one of its leaders for many years.

W.E.B. DuBois always kept his goals in mind. He worked to end racism, to improve the lives of people with African heritage, and to bring peace among the races, sometimes without much recognition or thanks. Dr. DuBois said, "Peace will be my applause."



Name _____

W.E.B. DuBois

Questions

- _____ 1. W.E.B. DuBois studied at _____.
- A. Harvard University
 - B. Fisk University
 - C. Berlin University
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 2. He earned a _____ degree.
- A. bachelor's
 - B. master's
 - C. doctorate
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 3. He lived during the time period _____.
- A. before the Revolutionary War
 - B. before the Civil War
 - C. after the Cold War
 - D. after the Civil War
- _____ 4. Dr. DuBois advanced the field of _____ with his work in the Philadelphia slums.
- A. anthropology
 - B. Latin and Greek
 - C. sociology
 - D. history
- _____ 5. In Europe, DuBois studied at a University in _____.
- A. France
 - B. Germany
 - C. Belgium
 - D. England
- _____ 6. Which happened last?
- A. DuBois became editor-in-chief of Crisis magazine
 - B. DuBois received his doctorate from Harvard
 - C. DuBois was the local editor for a New York paper
 - D. DuBois went to Germany
- _____ 7. According to the information in this article, which word best describes W.E.B. DuBois?
- A. scholarly
 - B. businesslike
 - C. artistic
 - D. athletic
- _____ 8. The Pan-African movement was a movement to help people of African heritage _____.
- A. in Europe
 - B. around the world
 - C. in the United States
 - D. in Africa