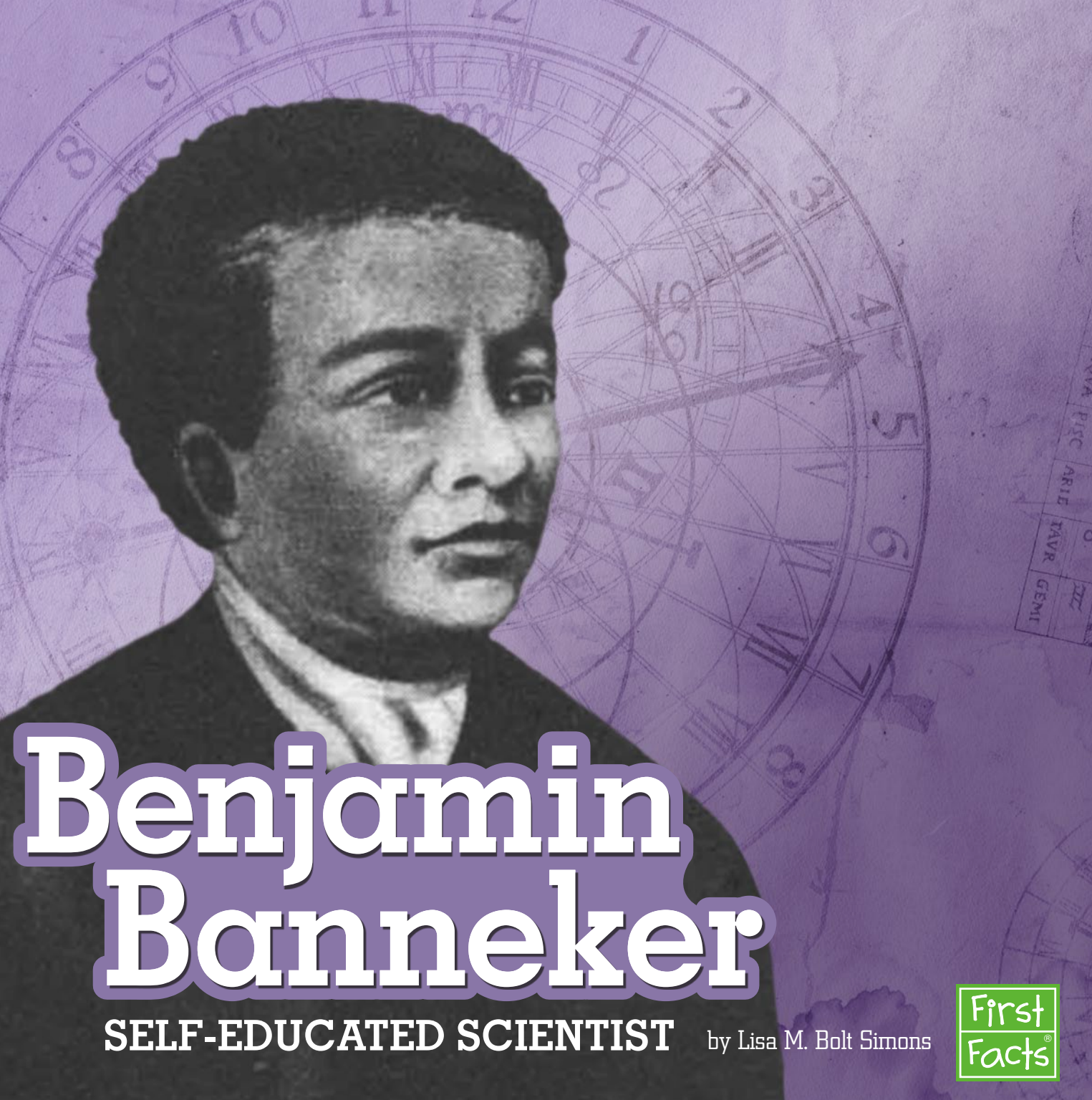




Benjamin Banneker

SELF-EDUCATED SCIENTIST

by Lisa M. Bolt Simons



Table of Contents

CHAPTER 1

Saving the Nation's Capital 4

CHAPTER 2

A Natural 6

CHAPTER 3

Almanac Author 14

CHAPTER 4

Outspoken about Equal Rights 18

Glossary 22

Read More 23

Internet Sites 23

Critical Thinking Questions 24

Index 24

CHAPTER 1

Saving the Nation's Capital

In 1790 the person hired to design our nation's capital city quit. He took all the plans with him. Benjamin Banneker had seen the plans. He had an excellent memory. He recreated the plans in two days. Benjamin helped save the Washington, D.C., we know today.

FACT

Thomas Jefferson asked Benjamin to help with the plans for the capital. Jefferson later became the third U.S. president.

CHAPTER 2

A Natural

Benjamin Banneker was born November 9, 1731, in Ellicott's Mills, Maryland. His mother, Mary, was from England. His father, Robert, was a freed slave. Benjamin grew up in Baltimore County. About 200 free African Americans, 4,000 slaves, and 13,000 Caucasians lived in this area.



Finding Freedom

Slavery was legal in Maryland until 1864. Some slaves could buy their freedom from their owners. Others escaped. Benjamin's father was born a slave. His owner later freed him.

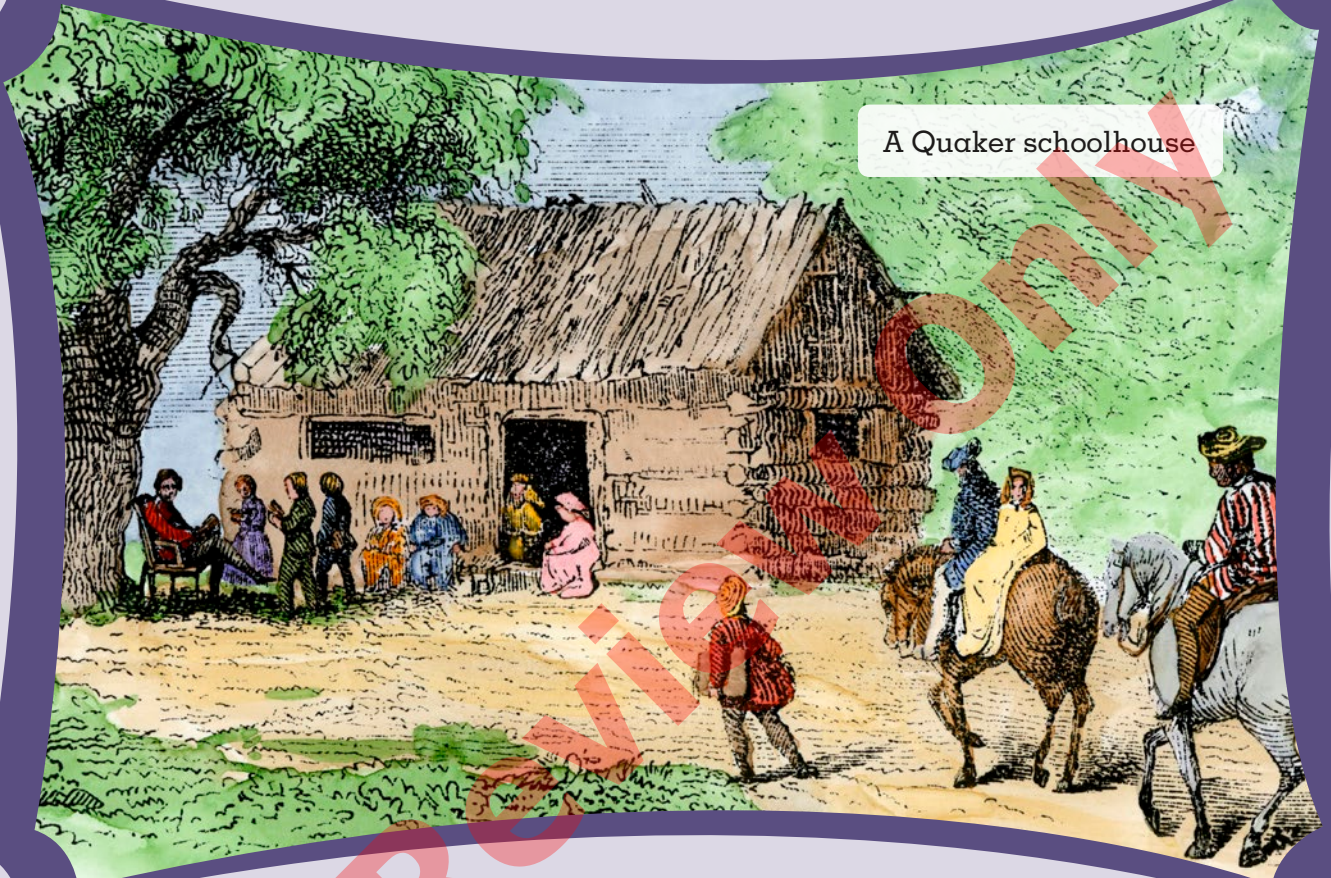
Portrait of Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin's grandmother taught him to read and write. Benjamin also went to a **Quaker** school. All races were allowed in the school. This was unusual for the time. Benjamin did very well in both math and science.

FACT Benjamin's grandmother, Molly, was an indentured servant. An indentured servant did work in return for clothing, food, and housing.

Quaker—founded in the 1600s, a group of people known as the Religious Society of Friends who opposed war

A Quaker schoolhouse



"The color of the skin is in no way connected with strength of the mind or intellectual powers."

Benjamin Banneker