

The Thrifty Sixth Grader



Lessons in Prudent,
Frugal, and Thrifty Living

Name: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____

PAGE Benjamin Franklin

2 (1706-1790)

Research the life of this Founding Father.



Early Life	Career
Political Contributions	
Proverbs and Maxims on Thrift	Sources/Citations

Booker T. Washington (ca. 1856-1915) is one of the most respected people in American history. Born into slavery, his desire to improve his life led him to seek an education, despite numerous obstacles. Once educated, he devoted his life to giving back to the community. He founded the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where teaching thrift was a cornerstone of the curriculum.

The following is from an address given by Booker T. Washington in Birmingham, Alabama, on January 1, 1900.

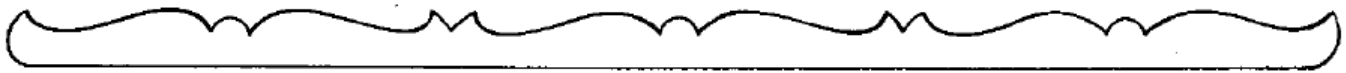
We must make up our minds that in order to be respected we must cultivate habits of economy, thrift, and industry. No people who spend all that they make, can ever attain to any high degree of success. No matter how much education they may receive, they will not be respected so long as they are without bank accounts and without homes. There is no question but that one of the weak points of the race is that we lack in too large a degree the saving habit. We are too much inclined to spend all that we earn at the end of the week or yield too often to the temptation when we get a few dollars ahead to cease work until all of that is spent. I must earnestly advise you to save money, not so much for money's sake, but because a bank account represents foresight, self-denial, thrift, and economy. The people who save money, who make themselves intelligent, and live moral lives, are the ones who are going to control the destiny of the country.

1. According to Booker T. Washington, in order to be respected, we must cultivate habits of what three things? _____

2. According to Booker T. Washington, a bank account represents what four things? _____

PAGE 3. Do you agree with Booker T. Washington? Why or why not?

4



Many people confuse thriftiness with miserliness. These people incorrectly believe that being thrifty is merely the selfish pursuit of money. This is not true.

Leaders such as Benjamin Franklin and Booker T. Washington emphasized trusteeship as an important aspect of thriftiness. Trusteeship is giving back. The idea behind trusteeship is that by being careful with how we spend our money, we can make our money go further, and give back to the community to increase the greater good.

Franklin and Washington lived thrifty lives. Each could have used his talents to amass a fortune and live a life of leisure. But instead, they realized that their time and money were better spent uplifting others.

4. What are ways that you might use your time and savings to benefit the community? _____

Name: _____

Trace and copy the following statements related to thrift. Then, interpret the meaning of each statement. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer.

PAGE
5

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Interpretation:

Name: _____

PAGE 6 *Idleness consumes more men than rust does iron. - Samuel Smiles in Life and Labor (1889)*

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Interpretation:

Economy, prudence, and the simple life are the sure masters of need. - Clara Barton (1821-1912), founder of the American Red Cross

Name: _____

Economy, prudence, and the simple life ^{PAGE}
are the sure masters of need. - Clara **7**
Barton (1821-1912), founder of the
American Red Cross

Interpretation:

Some of man's best qualities depend upon the right use of
money such as his generosity, benevolence, justice,

Name: _____

PAGE honesty, and forethought. Many of his worst
8 qualities also originate in the bad use of money—such
as greed, miserliness, injustice, extravagance, and
improvidence. — Samuel Smiles (1812–1904) in Thrift

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Name: _____

Interpretation:

5. What is your favorite quotation, and why?

Name: _____

PAGE 10 Maggie L. Walker (1867-1934), the daughter of a former slave, devoted her life to helping the community. Thrift was very important to Maggie L. Walker. She became the first woman in the United States to charter a bank.

Decipher the code to reveal a quote from Maggie L. Walker.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

25 9 21 2 25 13 8 2 17 9 15 23 13 24 2 21 2 15 26 18 13 12 12 9 15

26 13 5 14 9 21 2 9 6 18 23 14 2 17 15 9 22 23 4 22 2

16 4 12 12 3 2 22 13 8 2 9 14 9 3 4 23 - - 9 14 9 3 4 23

16 14 4 22 14 26 13 5 16 4 12 12 6 2 21 2 15 15 2 19 15 2 23

9 6 18 13 24 16 14 4 22 14 26 13 5 16 4 12 12 6 2 21 2 15

19 15 13 16 25 14 9 8 2

- 8 9 19 19 4 2 12 16 9 12 20 2 15



6. How do you plan to save money? _____
