

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Read the passage. Then use the information from the passage to answer questions 1–5.*

## Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin Banneker was born in 1731. At that time, America still belonged to England. Most African Americans were slaves then. But Benjamin was a free black man. His family farmed land in Maryland.

Ben was always a smart young man. He loved numbers. He counted everything in sight. He never tired of learning.

In 1771, the Ellicotts moved next door to the Banneker farm. George Ellicott became an important friend to Ben. Ellicott shared his telescope with Ben and taught him astronomy, the study of the stars and planets. He also taught Ben how to survey land and make maps. With Ellicott's telescope, Ben studied the night sky. He also studied the movements of the sun and moon.

In 1791, a cousin of George Ellicott offered a job to Banneker. He asked Ben to help make plans for the new capital of the United States in Washington, D.C. Ben's job was to mark a ten-mile square for the new city. To do this, he used his knowledge of the sun and stars and his surveying skills. He also used a special clock.

When Ben finished his work, he returned to his farm and his own projects. One of these was his almanac, a book that gave information about weather and the seasons. Banneker continued to study the stars and survey the land until his death in 1806.

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**1. Which detail from the passage supports the judgment that part of Benjamin Banneker's success came from his friendship with George Ellicott?**

- Ⓐ The Ellicotts lived next door to the Banneker farm.
- Ⓑ Ellicott became an important friend to Ben.
- Ⓒ Ben was a free black man who lived in Maryland.
- Ⓓ Ben returned to his farm and his own projects.

**2. What were the most important things that Benjamin Banneker learned from George Ellicott?**

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**3. Why was Benjamin Banneker the right person to do the job of marking the area that would become the new United States capital?**

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**4. What part of Benjamin Banneker's work was probably most important to farmers?**

- Ⓐ his almanac
- Ⓑ his plans for Washington, D.C.
- Ⓒ his love of numbers
- Ⓓ his studies of the night sky

**5. Which detail from the passage best supports the judgment that Benjamin Banneker was a skilled scientist?**

- Ⓐ He always loved numbers and counted everything in sight.
- Ⓑ He shared George Ellicott's telescope.
- Ⓒ He used his knowledge of the sun and stars to plan a new city.
- Ⓓ He returned to his farm and his own projects.