

W.E.B. Du Bois

1868-1963

civil rights
activist



writer

sociologist

Part 1 - Read the informational text below. Highlight two sentences you find interesting. Share them with a peer.

William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) Du Bois was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in **1868**. Du Bois' father left the family before Du Bois' second birthday. His mother suffered a stroke when Du Bois was still a young child. His mother could no longer work. Du Bois had to work to support himself and his mother. Even though this was difficult, Du Bois still focused on his studies. He believed that education could make their lives better. Du Bois became the first person in his family to go to high school.

In **1885**, W.E.B. Du Bois moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend Fisk University. Fisk University is a historically African American university. After completing his master's degree, he studied in Germany at the University of Berlin. In **1895**, he became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University. W.E.B. Du Bois helped found the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in **1909**.

Interesting Fact

W.E.B. Du Bois died one day before Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, which spoke about integration and equal rights for African Americans.

W.E.B. Du Bois spoke about his disagreements with another well known black voice of the time, Booker T. Washington. Washington believed that African Americans should accept **discrimination** for the time being. He thought African Americans should focus on working hard and gaining skills in jobs like farming. W.E.B. Du Bois did not agree. He argued for complete black **integration** and **equal rights**. Du Bois believed it was important to end all discrimination against African Americans as soon as possible.

Name _____

Date _____

Part 2 - Use a dictionary to define the underlined words above and compare your findings with a peer. Next, draw a picture to show your understanding. Finally, answer the questions below.

Word	Definition	Picture
discrimination		
equal rights		
integration		

Why did W.E.B. Du Bois believe that education was important?

W.E.B. Du Bois believed education was important because _____

In your own words, explain why Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois disagreed.
