INVENTORS & INVENTIONS

FOUNDER OF THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND—
Frederick Douglass Patterson

On Oct. 10, 1901, in Washington, D.C., Frederick Douglass Patterson was born. His parents named him after the anti-slavery leader, Frederick Douglass. Patterson became an orphan at age 2 and was raised by his oldest sister, who would later become an educator. Patterson was taught to value education.

In 1915, Patterson enrolled in Praire View Normal and Industrial Institute in Texas and later earned a teaching certificate. From there, Patterson enrolled in Iowa State College and earned a doctorate in veterinarian medicine at the age of 22 and a Master of Science degree. Patterson also earned a second doctorate degree from Cornell University.

Patton became a veterinarian science at Virginia State College and also was the director of agriculture. In 1928, he moved to Tuskegee University where he stayed for almost 25 years. At Tuskegee, Patton was the head of the veterinary division, director of the school of agriculture, and Tuskegee’s third president. Patterson was only 73 when he received this honor. In 1944, Patterson founded the School of Veterinary Medicine, which was the first veterinary medical school at a black university.

Patterson paved the way for others to follow in his footsteps. In 1943, he founded the United Negro College Fund, which provides money for student scholarships, staff salaries, library resources, and laboratories. Patterson also founded the College Endowment Funding Plan.

In 1947, Patterson served with President Truman’s Commission on Higher Education. He helped write a report that stated all American colleges and universities should abolish their number for enrollment by ending racial segregation at the college level. In 1946, the Child Nutrition Act was signed by President Johnson. Patterson was appointed by the President to oversee the re-development of the federally funded school lunch program. With this program, all students were able to receive a nutritious meal at school to help boost their ability to concentrate and learn. In 1987, President Reagan gave from the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Patterson died one year later at the age of 86, but his legacy lives on through the Frederick D. Patterson Institute, which provides educational opportunities for African Americans.

Want to know more? Read “Chronicles of Faith: The Autobiography of Frederick D. Patterson.”

LITERACY SKILL: Sequencing. Choose five events from the narrative and place them in chronological order (the order in which they occurred).

Learning Standards: I can read nonfiction text to find important details. I can sequence the details to help understand chronological order.

MAP CORNER

In order to do well on the MAP test, you will need to understand context clues. Context clues allow you to understand the definition of unknown words in a sentence. To practice this skill, read a newspaper article and make a list of words that are unfamiliar to you. Based on the context clues, what do you think the word means? Learn how to check the meaning of the word in a dictionary definition.

Next, create a list of synonyms and antonyms for the words that you found. Draw a picture to help you remember the meaning of the word. Use the word in a sentence of your own.

Learning Standards: I can use context clues to build vocabulary.