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## George Washington Carver Planting Sensory Bin

George Washington Carver was a Black American agricultural scientist and inventor. He was the first Black American to receive a Bachelor of Science degree and to be honored with a National Monument. From a young age, George loved gardening and experimenting with plants. He came up with an idea called crop rotation. Years of growing cotton removed nutrients from the soil and the soil wouldn't produce a good crop. George discovered that if you planted certain plants, like peanuts, soybeans, or sweet potatoes, you could give the soil more nutrients. Once your soil was healthy again, you could plant cotton and get a great crop! With all these extra peanuts and other crops, he invented hundreds of food items and products, which gave him the nickname "The Peanut Man". He showed poor farmers how to use these plants as a source of their own food and to improve their quality of life. Today we'll experiment with soil and will plant different seeds in our own sensory farm!



### 1 Gather materials:

- Large Bin
- Potting Soil
- Toy Gardening Tools (shovels, watering can, etc.)
- Fake Plants / Flowers
- Small Planting Pots
- Various Types of Seeds
- Fake Insects
- Water



2 Pour potting soil into a large bin.

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3



Spread some fake insects around and within your potting soil.

4



Add your planting pots to the top of your soil. Add any left-over soil into your individual pots.

5



Plant different seeds into the individual pots.

6



Spread some seeds around into the potting soil around the planting pots.



7



Add fake plants and flowers around your bin and into your pots. You can also use any other leaves or plants you can find around your neighborhood.

8



Add any gardening tool toys to your bin for exploration.

9



Hydrate your seeds by pouring a little bit of water into your bin and your planting pots.

**Play with your bin! Dig holes for your seeds and cover them up. Use your gardening tools to try different things with your soil. You can even leave your plants in the sun and continue to water them to see if your plants grow!**