Math Blast From the Past

Benjamin Banneker

Maryland

1731-1806

**Benjamin Banneker has been called the first \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**He successfully predicted solar eclipse contradicting the forecasts of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**mathematicians and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the day.**

**His grandfather was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and his grandmother, an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from England.**

**Then one summer, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school teacher came to live in the valley. He set up a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for boys.**

**Banneker never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He died on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and was buried in the family burial ground near his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Recent studies have verified Banneker's status as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mathematician and amateur astronomer.**

**The "Sable Astronomer" was often pointed to as proof that African Americans were \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to European Americans.**

**In 1980, the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ issued a postage stamp in his honor.**

**Calculating the proper number of teeth for each gear and the necessary relationships between the gears, he constructed a working \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that kept accurate time and struck the hours for over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years.**

**Banneker sent a copy of his almanac to then Secretary of State, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, along with a twelve page letter on how unfair it was that Blacks were not accorded the same rights as other men refereed to in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Banneker was able to reproduce \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in two days all of the plans for the ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Needless to say, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ would not be as it is today had it not been for Benjamin Banneker and his eye for detail.**

**Despite the popular prejudices of his times, the man was quite unwilling to let his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hinder in any way his thirst for intellectual development.**

**Name the other great mathematicians:**

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Solve ***The Puzzle of the Cooper and the Vintner***

Hints: A **cooper** is someone who makes [wooden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood) [staved](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staff_(stick)) vessels of a conical form, of greater length than breadth, bound together with hoops and possessing flat ends or heads.

A **winemaker** or **vintner** is a person engaged in making wine.

A **vessel** barrels were used for the storage and transportation of goods.