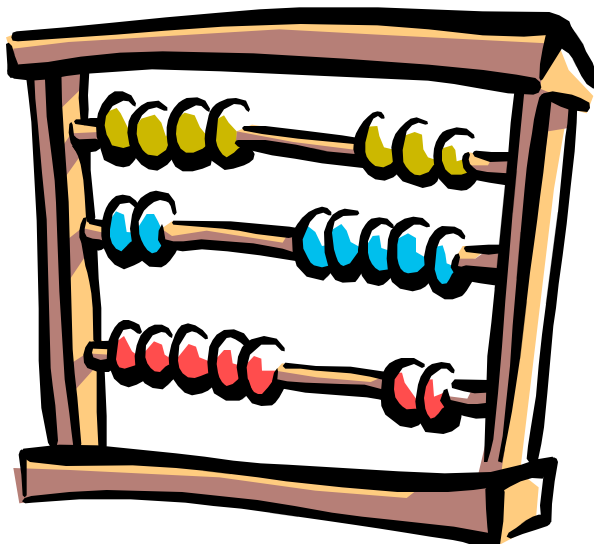


Young Benjamin's Educational Experience

To fully understand what education was like for African-Americans during Benjamin Banneker's time, it's best to simply compare the two.

Banneker's Education

- Young Ben's grandmother Molly, a former slave, taught him to read using the Bible.
- At an early age, he taught himself to play the flute and violin
- When a Quaker school for Boys opened in the Valley, young Ben attended so he could learn to read and do elementary algebra.
- By the time he was 15, he had acquired the equivalent of an eighth- grade education.



The Education of the Time

- Although most slave owners cared little about the education of their slaves, a few did teach them to read using the Bible.
- Churches, most common the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Quakers, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in Foreign Parts, and the Society of Friends, were all concerned with Black education.
- In 1786, the first Sunday School for blacks was established; a year after one had been established for whites. These schools not only taught religion, but because of the scarcity of general schooling, taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.