

Celebrating Black Women in NASA!

February is Black History Month. These women are just two of many diverse people who make America wonderful!



Katherine Johnson was an African American physicist and mathematician. Before digital computers were used, human mathematicians did all the calculating. Johnson worked in a section called “Colored Computers,” and was one of several black women working for NASA at the time, when work places were segregated. Her calculations helped send men into orbit and onto the moon. Among her many awards, Johnson was awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015, which is the highest award a President can give a civilian.

Mae Jemison is an American engineer, physicist, and former astronaut. As a child, Jemison dreamed of going to space one day, but noticed none of the astronauts looked like her; they were all white men. In 1992, Jemison achieved her dream, and became the first black woman to go to space, orbiting the Earth 127 times on the space shuttle Endeavor during her mission. Since her time at NASA, Jemison has been working to advance technology in developing countries and inspiring young people to work in the sciences.



Recommended Reading

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed

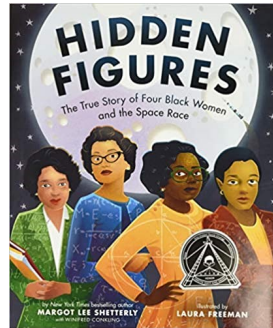
Inspired by the story of Mae Jemison, the first African American woman in space.

When Little Mae was a child, she dreamed of dancing in space. She imagined herself surrounded by billions of stars floating gliding and discovering. Follow Mae as she learns that if you can dream it and you work hard for it, anything is possible.



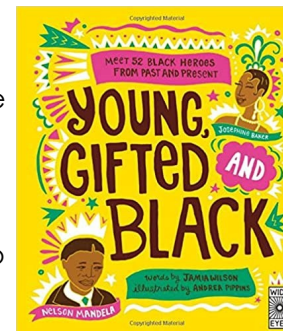
Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

In this beautifully illustrated picture book edition, we explore the story of four female African American mathematicians at NASA, known as “colored computers,” and how they overcame gender and racial barriers to succeed in a highly challenging STEM-based career.



Young, Gifted And Black by Jamia Wilson

Meet 52 icons of color from the past and present in this celebration of inspirational achievement—a collection of stories about changemakers to encourage, inspire, and empower the next generation of changemakers.



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Space & Black History Month

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