



ANNIE EASLEY (USA, 1933-2011)

EARLY LIFE



Originally considered nursing because it was the "safe" choice for Black women, but her mom encouraged her to work hard to be anything she wanted to be.

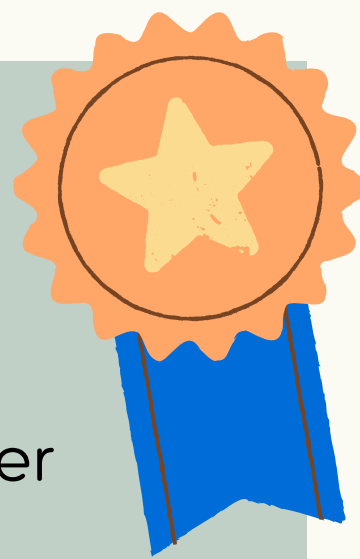
She came across a newspaper article about human computers at NASA and gained an interest in Math and Computer Science.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Began as a human computer at NASA, then learned to code in order to be a programmer. Her pivotal work was coding for the Centaur rocket stage.

Conducted outreach to encourage students from minority backgrounds to consider careers in STEM.

Also advocated for equality in the workplace as an Equal Employment Opportunity counselor.



EDUCATION

Started out in pharmacy school, but had to discontinue due to personal reasons.

When she returned to school, she pursued a BSc in Mathematics (1977, Cleveland State University) while still working full time at NASA.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

She faced racism at work; for example, as one of the only Black people at work, she was cut out of promotional photos.

At the time, Black people had to pass literacy tests and pay a poll tax in order to vote. She helped train people to pass these requirements.

When she enrolled in her math degree, she was denied funding other employees had received.



FUN FACTS

- In 2021, the International Astronomical Union named a crater on the moon after Easley.
- She made a pact with her supervisor one day to wear pants together in order to normalize wearing pants for women.
- She was a founding member and the first president of NASA Ski Club.