

"We will always have STEM with us. Some things will drop out of the public eye and will go away, but there will always be science, engineering and technology. And there will always, always be mathematics." - Katherine Johnson

Education

Katherine Johnson started college when she was 15! She worked extremely hard to master algebra and geometry and graduated when she was 18.

Did you Know?

Katherine Johnson was one of the first three African American students to enroll in a graduate program at West Virginia University.

Early Life

Katherine Johnson born on **August 26, 1918** in White Sulphur Springs in West Virginia. Katherine loved to count everything from an early age. She started high school when she was 10!

Very Fun Fact!

Johnson received a standing ovation at the 2017 Oscars for the film "Hidden Figures" that highlighted her contributions at NASA.

KATHERINE JOHNSON

NASA MATHEMATICIAN, PIONEER IN RACIAL AND GENDER EQUALITY, ASTROPHYSICIST, SPACE SCIENTIST

August 26, 1918 – February 24, 2020

Overcoming adversity

- Moved their family to a town with black high schools for better educational opportunities
- Among first African American women at NASA, solving math problems
- Took initiative and attended male-dominated meetings
- She stood out and with her skills contributed to John Glenn's orbital flight, Apollo 11 Moon landing
- Post-retirement: Encouraged students, especially girls and minorities, in math and science

Contributions

- Calculated the trajectory for the first American in space using Euclidean geometry (1961)
- Verified the calculations for the first American to orbit Earth (1962)
- Contributed to the successful calculations for the moon landing (1969)
- Developed backup procedures and charts in the Apollo 13 Mission that ensured the crew's safe return (1970)
- Worked on various projects, including the Earth Resources Satellite and plans for a mission to Mars.